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ABSTRACT

The 1994 report is the fifth annual report of North Carolina Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results since special state reporting began in 1990. Information is available for the nation, the state, and the 119 school systems and 2 special schools in North Carolina. It is the third year that all SAT-takers previously had the opportunity to take the PSAT at state expense. It is also the first year that the state supported student participation in advanced placement courses in every school system. While the participation rate on the SAT remained the same as in the previous year, North Carolina students made a one-point gain in 1994 from the previous year. Since 1989, North Carolina is the only SAT state (at least 40% of graduating seniors taking the SAT) to have 5 consecutive years of improvement. In fact, in 10 of the last 11 years, the state's total SAT scores have increased from the previous year's score. In the last 5 years North Carolina increased its average SAT score by 24 points. Test result information is presented in 19 tables and 23 figures. (SLD)

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sat report

the north carolina 1994 scholastic aptitude test report

reporting on the nation, the state, the 119 public school systems and two special public schools

accountability services
north carolina department of public instruction
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raleigh, nc 27601-2825

published august 1994

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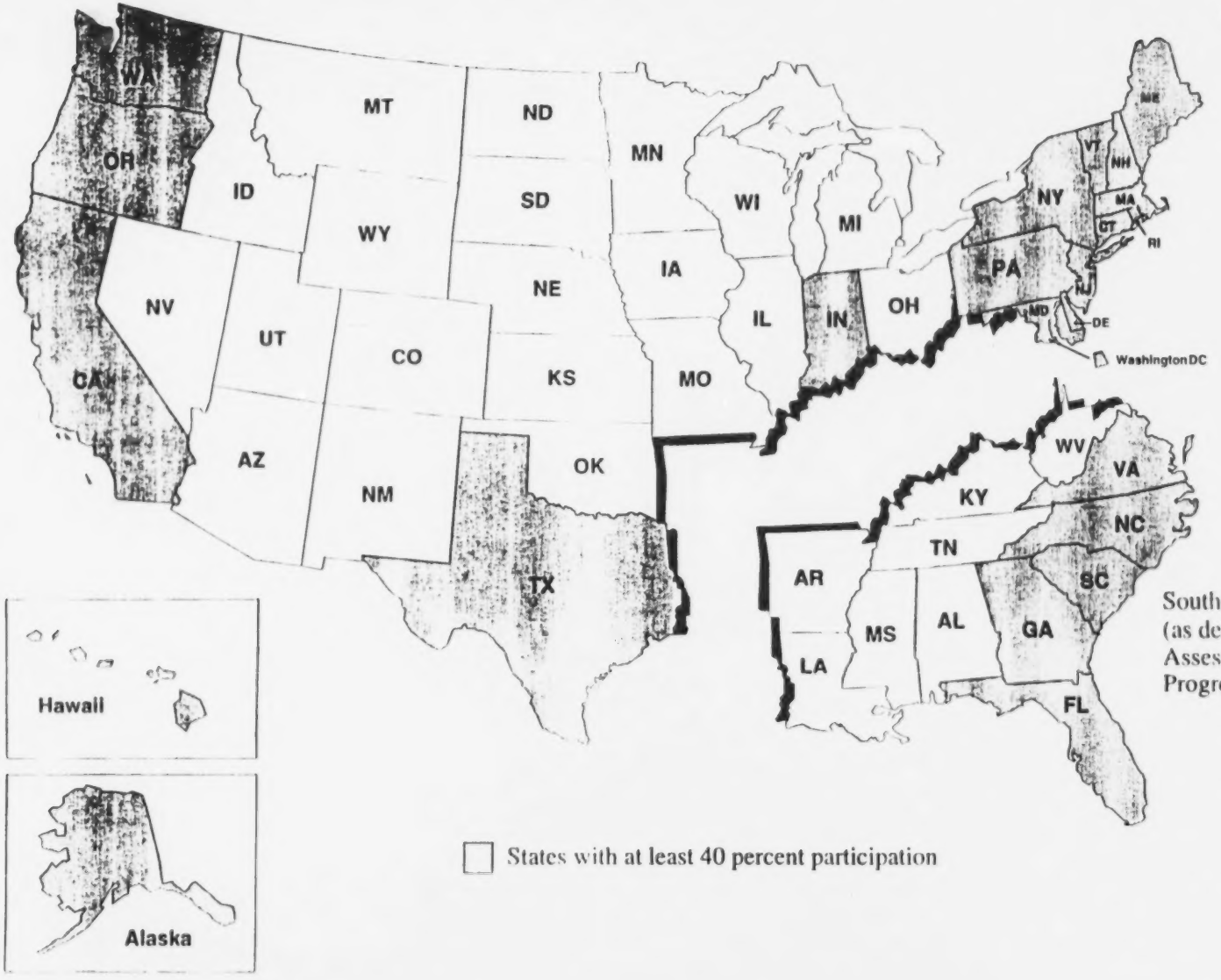
States with at Least 40 Percent Participation on the SAT



Southeast Region
(as defined by National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP)

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The North Carolina 1994 Scholastic Aptitude Test Report

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Accountability Services

Raleigh, NC 27601

Bob Etheridge
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Published August 1994

Table of Contents

Foreword i

Acknowledgements ii

Highlights iii

Introduction 1

Section I Comparing the Performance of the Fifty States: 1994 and Historically 7

Section II Comparing the Performance of North Carolina and the Nation: 1994 and Historically 17

Section III Comparing the Performance of North Carolina and Six Selected States: 1994 and Historically 37

Section IV Comparing the Performance of Individual School Systems For the 120 Public School Systems and Two Special Public Schools 53

List of Tables

Table 1. 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores Ranked by State 9

Table 2. 1989-1994 Total SAT Scores Ranked by State 11

Table 3. 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores for States with 40 Percent or More of Seniors Taking the Test 12

Table 4. 1994 Percent Tested, SAT Scores, and Adjusted Total SAT Scores and Ranks Adjusted for Percent Tested 14

Table 5. Change in Total SAT Score from 1984 to 1994 and 1989 to 1994 by State 15

Table 6. Average Total SAT Scores for North Carolina and the Nation: 1972–1994 19

Table 7. Frequency Distributions of North Carolina 1994 SAT Verbal and Mathematics Scores 21

Table 8. Total Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States 23

Table 9. Verbal Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States 24

Table 10. Mathematics Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States 25

Table 11. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994 26

Table 12. United States and North Carolina Verbal SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994 27

Table 13. United States and North Carolina Mathematics SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994 28

Table 14. Demographic Characteristics and 1994 SAT Scores for Categories of Students 40

Table 15. 1994 Total SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States 41

Table 16. 1994 Verbal SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States 42

Table 17. 1994 Mathematics SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States 43

Table 18. Outstanding School Systems 57

Table 19. 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores for School Systems and Special Schools 60

List of Figures

Figure 1. Scatterplot of Total SAT Score by Percent of Students Tested for all States 13

Figure 2. Average Total SAT Scores for the United States, the Southeast Region and North Carolina: 1987–1994 20

Figure 3. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 Individual SAT Verbal Scores 22

Figure 4. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 Individual SAT Mathematics Scores 22

Figure 5. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Male and Female Students: 1989–1994 29

Figure 6. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Black and White Students: 1989–1994 30

Figure 7. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students by Parent Education Level: 1989–1994 31

Figure 8. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students by Family Income: 1989–1994 32

Figure 9a. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students with 20 or More Credits in Six AcademicSubjects: 1989–1994 33

Figure 9b. Average Amount of Score Points Above and Below the Mean (860) for Various Credits in Academic Subjects, 1994 (North Carolina) 33

Figure 10. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores forA+, A, A-, and B Students: 1989–1994 34

Figure 11. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students in the Top Ten Percent of their High School Class: 1989–1994 35

Figure 12. Average Total SAT Scores for North Carolina and Selected States: 1987–1994 39

Figure 13. 1994 Total SAT Scores for Males and Females for Selected States and the Nation 44

Figure 14. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Race/Ethnicity for Selected States and the Nation 45

Figure 15. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Parent Education Levels for Selected States and the Nation 46

Figure 16. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Family Income Level for Selected States and the Nation 47

Figure 17. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Total Years of Study in Six Academic Subjects for Selected States and the Nation 48

Figure 18. 1994 Total SAT Scores by High School Grade Point Average for Selected States and the Nation 49

Figure 19. 1994 Total SAT Scores by High School Rank for Selected States and the Nation 50

Figure 20. Counties with Total SAT Scores At or Above the State and National Averages 55

Figure 21. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 School System Average SAT Mathematics Scores 56

Figure 22. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 School System Average SAT Verbal Scores 56

Figure 23. A Scatterplot of Index of Advantagement by Total SAT Score for 119 School Systems 59

Foreword

Our state can be very proud of the fact that SAT scores of North Carolina's students have increased 24 points in five years. We started this rise in 1990 when the average scores increased five points, and we have continued to better our scores since that time. This year, we continued to improve with a one point gain.

After making considerable gains over the last four years, this year's one point increase should serve as a warning that we cannot become complacent. There are several areas, in particular, that concern me and that will concern local teachers and administrators.

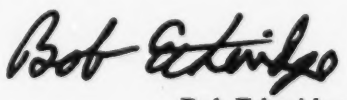
Students in our state still are not taking the tough courses that they must have to succeed on the SAT. And, our top students do not score well when compared to their peers nationwide. These two facts confirm that we need to do more to ensure that our students take tough courses. Too many of our students take the easy way out—a way that does not prepare them well for the SAT or for college.

Our state has taken steps to steer more students into the academic courses. The Algebra I requirement for graduation, state funds for students to take the PSAT, and the emphasis on Advanced Placement all should have an impact on student participation in higher level courses. The more students can be encouraged to take these courses, the better off they will be when they begin preparing for college.

We can be proud that so many of our students set their sights on attending college. Participation in the SAT is at a high of 60 percent. I am pleased that our SAT scores have increased at the same time that our participation has increased.

North Carolina is the only SAT state, where more than 40 percent of the students take the SAT, with five consecutive years of improvement. This achievement and others are highlighted in the Introduction section to this Report. I encourage you to take time to read in this report about our accomplishments and areas where improvement is needed.

In five years, North Carolina has made significant gains on the SAT and in other measures of student achievement. With parents, students, teachers, and communities working together, I believe we can continue to make progress and that our students can compete with students from across this country. Our future depends on what happens in schools today.



Bob Etheridge

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Acknowledgments

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The development of a comprehensive report on student and school system performance on the SAT requires the skill and effort of many individuals. Special thanks go to Kevin Kirby for his work on several earlier SAT reports. We would also like to thank Joy Gussman for reworking the structure of the report, Pat Hill for her helpful suggestions on overall appearance, Kyra Moore and Marla DeLuca for the graphical presentation of data, Marilyn Zuckerman for proofreading and insuring the accuracy of the data, and Faye Atkinson and Karen Davis for report production.

Highlights of the 1994 report

- This 1994 report is the fifth annual report of North Carolina SAT results since special state reporting began in 1990.
- This is the third year that all SAT-takers previously had the opportunity to take the PSAT at state expense. North Carolina began offering a state-supported administration of the PSAT in 1989-90.
- This is the first year the state supported student participation in Advanced Placement courses in every school system. As a result, student enrollment in Advanced Placement courses increased significantly.

Highlights of 1994 test results

- In 1994, North Carolina students made a one point gain from the previous year.
- The North Carolina participation rate on the SAT remained the same as the previous year.
- Since 1989, North Carolina is the only SAT state to have five consecutive years of improvement.
- In ten of the last eleven years, North Carolina's total SAT score has increased from the previous year's score.
- In the last five years North Carolina has increased its average SAT score by 24 points.

SAT '94

Past performance and future goals

In 1989, North Carolina's average SAT score dropped to the lowest in the nation. Beginning in 1989, teachers, principals, superintendents, educational policy makers and parents have focused on improving the quality of education in North Carolina schools. As a result, gains in the state's average SAT scores have occurred every year since 1989.

This year North Carolina achieved its highest average SAT score ever, as well as matching its highest ever percentage of graduating seniors taking the SAT. For the fifth consecutive year, North Carolina has improved its SAT score. However, the score remains below the southeast average and the national average. Likewise, almost all subgroups of North Carolina students continue to have lower scores than their national counterparts.

Continued improvement will be necessary to meet the following SAT targets set by the state for 1995 and 2000:

- By 1995, the average score of North Carolina students taking the SAT will exceed the southeast regional average.
- By 2000, the average score of North Carolina students taking the SAT will exceed the national average.
- Each year between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of North Carolina students taking the SAT will remain at least at the 1989 level.

Clearly, continued improvements in North Carolina will be necessary if these goals are to be met.

Steps taken toward improved SAT scores

Since taking office, State Superintendent Bob Etheridge has supported a comprehensive program to strengthen the state's secondary education program. This program is aimed toward improving overall student achievement, which includes raising SAT scores. A number of ongoing school improvement efforts such as the Basic Education Program and significant changes in the state's Standard Course of Study have created an environment for improved student performance. Features of the program are outlined below.

- North Carolina special reporting of SAT results. Special state reporting of SAT results was enacted to provide a thorough analysis of student performance on the SAT and to provide more information to local school systems to assist them in improving SAT scores in their schools. (This 1994 report is the fifth annual report of North Carolina SAT results since special state reporting began.)
- Programs to encourage more rigorous courses of study. Revisions to the state's Standard Course of Study were initiated to strengthen the curriculum. The revised curriculum is in line with national standards, and has an increased emphasis on higher level thinking skills.
- Expansion of the End-of-Grade and End-of-Course Testing Programs. Revisions to the state curriculum impacted the state's testing program, which is specifically designed to assess that curriculum. These changes have resulted in comprehensive

end-of-grade tests in grades 3 through 8 as well as more challenging high school end-of-course tests.

- Expanded participation in the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). The state began offering the PSAT to all public school students who have completed Algebra I, so more students could become comfortable with the format and content of the SAT before taking it.

- Expansion in data analysis and reporting capabilities. Through work initiated by the PSAT Program, Data Analyst software has been developed for each of the testing programs. This user-friendly software allows easy access to individual student data as well as custom summary reporting for subgroups of students.

- Performance-Based Accountability Program. Initiated by legislation (the School Improvement and Accountability Act), this program combines added flexibility in the local use of state educational funds with increased local accountability for student performance.

- State and school system Report Cards. Tied to the Performance-Based Accountability Program, these reports allow parents and other citizens to look at strong and weak points of the state or a school system.

- State support for Advanced Placement (AP) courses. For the first time in 1993-94, the state supported student participation in AP courses in every school system. AP courses are rigorous courses which provide an opportunity for high school students to study college-level material and potentially earn college course credit.

All of these efforts are helping North Carolina move closer to the goals and targets set by the state's policy makers and leaders. Commitment to these efforts continues to be a strong factor not only in promoting improved performance on the SAT but in promoting higher achievement on every measure currently used to assess student performance.

Analysis of Disaggregated Data

North Carolina as a whole is still 42 points below the national average; however, when we compare a cohort of North Carolina students to the same cohort for the nation it becomes clear that the groups of students who achieve the highest scores on the SAT are the same students who are the furthest behind their national counterparts. Historically, in North Carolina and in the nation, males have had higher SAT scores than females and white students have had higher scores than black students. If we compare these North Carolina cohorts to their national counterparts, however, we find that North Carolina females are 37 points below all females while North Carolina males are 47 points below all males. Additionally, North Carolina black students are closer to their cohort average than North Carolina's white students (a 17 point difference for black students compared with a 33 point difference for white students). North Carolina's most advantaged students also score well below their national counterparts. Students with highly educated parents, students who report grade point averages in the 'A' range, and students at the top of their graduating class are the furthest behind their national comparison groups.

Additionally, North Carolina students taking twenty or more core courses during high school score well below their national counterparts. Prior to taking the SAT, students fill out a questionnaire on which they report the courses they have taken or plan to take before graduation. In general, students who take (or plan to take)

twenty or more courses in six specified subject areas (Arts and Music, Foreign and Classical Languages, Social Sciences and History, Mathematics, English, and Natural Sciences) perform better than students who take fewer courses. Fewer North Carolina students take 20 or more courses (33% compared to 41% nationally), and students who do take these courses score much lower than their national counterparts.

The data also clearly show higher SAT scores for students taking more challenging courses regardless of sex, race, class rank, grade point average, or any socioeconomic factor. This is especially evident in the advanced mathematics courses (Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and Computer Math) and the advanced science courses (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). However, the data also shows that as the courses become more challenging, female and minority representation decreases.

Sources of data for the report

The data in this report are from three primary sources: (1) *National College-Bound Seniors: 1994 SAT Profile* and profiles from earlier years (the College Board), (2) *North Carolina College-Bound Seniors: 1994 SAT Profile*, as well as the profiles for other selected states (the College Board) and (3) a data tape of individual student scores, for the state's 119 public school systems and two special public schools, prepared by Educational Testing Service in cooperation with the College Board. SAT scores are reported each year for students who were scheduled to graduate. The most recent scores of these students are reported, regardless of when they last took the test.

Data from the College Board vary somewhat from data reported to the Department of Public Instruction, since the Department of Public Instruction data were restricted to the 119 public school systems and two special public schools, while the College Board profiles included students from all non-public schools as well. In the several instances where the Department of Public Instruction data were aggregated for the state and differ from the College Board data, care has been taken to identify the data source in order to avoid confusion.

How the report is presented

This report is broken into four sections with most containing a mix of tables, figures and observations or comments. **Section I** presents 1994 and historical data for the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Other tables in Section I concentrate on the 24 states where at least 40 percent of seniors take the SAT. These 24 states are known as the SAT states and are identified on the inside front cover. **Section II** emphasizes North Carolina's performance on the SAT compared to the nation's performance. **Section III** presents the 1994 performance of certain categories of students in North Carolina compared to the performance of the same categories of students in Florida, Georgia, New York, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. These states were selected either because they are southeastern states or states with general population characteristics similar to North Carolina. Individual school system results for 1994 are presented in **Section IV**.

School and School System Profiles

Individual school and school system profiles, similar in format to the state profile presented in Tables 10 and 11, were provided to each of the school systems and schools. A compilation of the school system profiles is available from the Department of Public Instruction. Graphical presentations of school and school system trends in performance (from 1989 to 1994), and school system frequency distributions were also provided to school systems.

Note that earlier reports in North Carolina's SAT performance were released and are available through the Department of Public Instruction. They are as follows:

North Carolina Scholastic Aptitude Test Results: State and 126 School System Reports, 1990, (in two volumes).

The North Carolina 1991 Scholastic Aptitude Test Report: State, 129 Public School System and 2 Special School Reports, 1991.

The North Carolina 1992 Scholastic Aptitude Test Report: State, the 129 Public School Systems and 2 Special Schools, 1992.

The North Carolina 1993 Scholastic Aptitude Test Report: State, the 120 Public School Systems and 2 Special Schools, 1993.

Note: A new version of the SAT was administered beginning in March 1994. Scores from the new test were equated with scores from the previous version. Very few scores reported here were from the new test.

Comparing the Performance of

The Fifty States

1994 and Historically

This section presents 1994 and historical data for the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Some tables only compare the 24 SAT states, where at least 40 percent of seniors take the SAT. In those states where very small percentages of students take the test, the students are typically applicants to the nation's most selective colleges, so that average scores for these states are generally higher than the national average. In the SAT states where greater proportions of students take the test, the scores are closer to the national average. For this reason, caution must be used when comparing states. Since ranking states on the basis of SAT scores alone fails to take into account a number of important factors, including participation, a method for 'correcting' a state's SAT score for percent tested has been used. A regression of average score against a function of percent tested determined the coefficients used to adjust scores and ranks for participation (by estimating the number of score points a state generally decreases for one point increase in percent tested.)

Table 1. 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores Ranked by State

State	Percent Tested	Verbal Mean	Verbal Rank	Math Mean	Math Rank	Total Mean	Total Rank
Alabama	8	482	13	529	15	1011	15
Alaska	49	434	30	477	34	911	31
Arizona	26	443	25	496	25	939	25
Arkansas	6	477	16	518	21	995	19
California	46	413	44	482	31	895	36
Colorado	28	456	24	513	22	969	23
Connecticut	80	426	36	472	40	898	35
Delaware	68	428	33	464	44	892	39
District of Columbia	53	406	47	443	51	849	49
Florida	49	413	43	466	43	879	46
Georgia	65	398	50	446	49	844	50
Hawaii	58	401	49	480	32	881	44
Idaho	16	461	21	508	24	969	22
Illinois	14	478	15	546	8	1024	9
Indiana	60	410	46	466	42	876	47
Iowa	5	506	2	574	1	1080	1
Kansas	10	494	5	550	6	1044	6
Kentucky	11	474	18	523	19	997	18
Louisiana	9	481	14	530	14	1011	14
Maine	68	420	39	463	45	883	42
Maryland	64	429	32	479	33	908	32
Massachusetts	79	426	35	475	36	901	33
Michigan	11	472	19	537	11	1009	16
Minnesota	9	495	4	562	2	1057	3
Mississippi	4	485	9	528	17	1013	13
Missouri	10	485	8	532	13	1017	12
Montana	21	463	20	523	18	986	20
Nebraska	9	482	12	543	9	1025	8
Nevada	30	429	31	484	29	913	30
New Hampshire	69	438	27	486	28	924	27
New Jersey	71	418	40	475	35	893	38
New Mexico	12	475	17	528	16	1003	17
New York	76	416	42	472	39	888	40
North Carolina	60	405	48	455	48	860	48
North Dakota	5	497	3	559	3	1056	4
Ohio	24	456	23	510	23	966	24
Oklahoma	9	482	11	537	10	1019	11
Oregon	53	436	28	491	26	927	26
Pennsylvania	70	417	41	462	47	879	45
Rhode Island	68	420	38	462	46	882	43
South Carolina	60	395	51	443	50	838	51
South Dakota	5	483	10	548	7	1031	7
Tennessee	12	488	6	535	12	1023	10
Texas	48	412	45	474	37	886	41
Utah	4	509	1	558	4	1067	2
Vermont	68	427	34	472	38	899	34
Virginia	65	424	37	469	41	893	37
Washington	49	434	29	488	27	922	28
West Virginia	17	439	26	482	30	921	29
Wisconsin	9	487	7	557	5	1044	5
Wyoming	12	459	22	521	20	980	21

Observations for Table 1:

- North Carolina scored 860 on the Total SAT in 1994: 405 on the verbal section and 455 on the mathematics section.
- An estimated 60 percent of North Carolina seniors took the SAT in 1994, which is the same percent that took the test in 1993.
- North Carolina ranked 48th on total SAT score, ranking above Georgia, South Carolina and the District of Colombia; ranked 48th on verbal score, ranking above Georgia, South Carolina and Hawaii; and ranked 48th on mathematics, ranking above Georgia, South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Observations for Table 2:

- North Carolina improved its total SAT score by one point over the previous year, improving its mathematics score by two points with the verbal score dropping one point.
- North Carolina's total score remained 48th for the 4th consecutive year, its highest rank since 1988.

Table 2. 1989-1994 Total SAT Scores Ranked by State

State	1989 Total	Rank	1990 Total	Rank	1991 Total	Rank	1992 Total	Rank	1993 Total	Rank	1994 Total	Rank	1994 Percent Tested
Alabama	1002	11	984	18	991	18	996	14	1006	14	1011	15	8
Alaska	923	31	914	31	920	29	908	31	915	31	911	31	49
Arizona	952	24	942	25	932	25	933	25	941	25	939	25	26
Arkansas	986	17	981	19	1005	11	990	17	997	18	995	19	6
California	906	34	903	33	897	33	900	34	899	35	895	36	46
Colorado	966	22	969	21	959	23	960	23	963	23	969	23	28
Connecticut	908	33	901	35	897	33	900	34	904	33	898	35	80
Delaware	903	37	903	33	892	36	895	37	894	36	892	39	68
District of Columbia	846	49	850	48	840	50	842	49	846	49	849	49	53
Florida	887	44	884	42	882	41	884	40	882	44	879	46	49
Georgia	847	48	844	49	844	48	842	49	844	50	844	50	65
Hawaii	888	43	885	41	883	40	878	44	879	45	881	44	58
Idaho	965	23	968	22	968	22	963	22	972	21	969	22	16
Illinois	982	19	994	14	1006	10	1010	10	1016	10	1024	9	14
Indiana	871	47	867	47	865	47	868	47	869	47	876	47	60
Iowa	1084	1	1088	1	1093	1	1096	1	1103	1	1080	1	5
Kansas	1040	4	1040	4	1039	4	1033	6	1042	6	1044	6	10
Kentucky	996	13	994	14	993	17	988	18	998	17	997	18	11
Louisiana	986	17	993	16	994	16	991	16	1008	13	1011	14	9
Maine	897	39	886	40	879	44	882	41	885	41	883	42	68
Maryland	914	32	908	32	904	32	907	32	909	32	908	32	64
Massachusetts	905	35	900	36	896	35	902	33	903	34	901	33	79
Michigan	972	21	968	22	980	20	987	20	996	19	1009	16	11
Minnesota	1006	10	1019	7	1023	7	1053	3	1045	5	1057	3	9
Mississippi	988	16	996	12	997	13	1004	12	1002	16	1013	13	4
Missouri	989	15	995	13	1002	12	1004	12	1013	11	1017	12	10
Montana	992	14	987	17	982	19	988	18	975	20	986	20	21
Nebraska	1030	6	1030	6	1024	6	1018	8	1023	8	1025	8	9
Nevada	926	30	921	30	919	30	922	29	920	30	913	30	30
New Hampshire	932	28	928	27	921	28	923	28	929	27	924	27	69
New Jersey	894	41	891	39	886	39	891	39	892	39	893	38	71
New Mexico	1015	7	1007	10	996	15	996	14	1003	15	1003	17	12
New York	890	42	882	45	881	42	882	41	887	40	888	40	76
North Carolina	836	51	841	50	844	48	855	48	859	48	860	48	60
North Dakota	1067	2	1069	2	1073	2	1068	2	1101	2	1056	4	5
Ohio	948	25	949	24	946	24	951	24	959	24	966	24	24
Oklahoma	1001	12	1001	11	997	13	1007	11	1012	12	1019	11	9
Oregon	927	29	923	28	922	27	925	26	933	26	927	26	53
Pennsylvania	886	45	883	43	876	45	877	45	878	46	879	45	70
Rhode Island	895	40	883	43	880	43	881	43	883	43	882	43	68
South Carolina	838	50	834	51	832	51	831	51	838	51	838	51	60
South Dakota	1041	3	1061	3	1047	3	1040	5	1060	3	1031	7	5
Tennessee	1009	9	1008	9	1015	9	1013	9	1017	9	1023	10	12
Texas	877	46	874	46	874	46	876	46	885	41	886	41	48
Utah	1036	5	1031	5	1031	5	1041	4	1049	4	1067	2	4
Vermont	905	35	897	37	890	37	897	36	893	38	899	34	68
Virginia	902	38	895	38	890	37	893	38	894	36	893	37	65
Washington	939	26	923	28	913	31	916	30	921	29	922	28	49
West Virginia	939	26	933	26	926	26	924	27	924	28	921	29	17
Wisconsin	1013	8	1019	7	1023	7	1029	7	1036	7	1044	5	9
Wyoming	978	20	977	20	980	20	978	21	970	22	980	21	12

Table 3. 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores for States with 40 Percent or More of Seniors Taking the Test

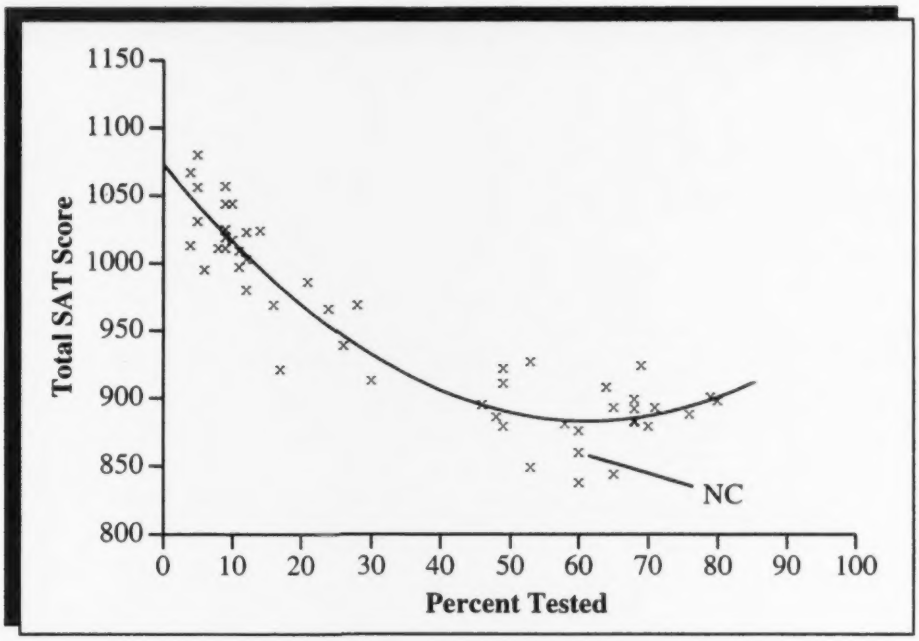
State	Percent Tested	Verbal Mean	Verbal Rank	Math Mean	Math Rank	Total Mean	Total Rank
Alaska	49	434	4	477	7	911	4
California	46	413	17	482	4	895	9
Connecticut	80	426	9	472	13	898	8
Delaware	68	428	6	464	17	892	12
District of Columbia	53	406	20	443	24	849	22
Florida	49	413	16	466	16	879	19
Georgia	65	398	23	446	22	844	23
Hawaii	58	401	22	480	5	881	17
Indiana	60	410	19	466	15	876	20
Maine	68	420	12	463	18	883	15
Maryland	64	429	5	479	6	908	5
Massachusetts	79	426	8	475	9	901	6
New Hampshire	69	438	1	486	3	924	2
New Jersey	71	418	13	475	8	893	11
New York	76	416	15	472	12	888	13
North Carolina	60	405	21	455	21	860	21
Oregon	53	436	2	491	1	927	1
Pennsylvania	70	417	14	462	20	879	18
Rhode Island	68	420	11	462	19	882	16
South Carolina	60	395	24	443	23	838	24
Texas	48	412	18	474	10	886	14
Vermont	68	427	7	472	11	899	7
Virginia	65	424	10	469	14	893	10
Washington	49	434	3	488	2	922	3

Observations for Table 3:

- Twenty-four states administered the SAT to 40 percent or more of seniors in 1994 (see inside front cover). The percentage of students taking the SAT ranged from 46 percent in California to 80 percent in Connecticut. Sixty percent of North Carolina seniors were tested in 1993 as well as 1994.

- Thirteen states had higher percentages of students tested than North Carolina, and two others had the same percentage.

Figure 1. Scatterplot of Total SAT Score by Percent of Students Tested for all States



Observations for Figure 1 and Table 4:

- Generally, as states increase their SAT participation rate, their average score decreases.
- With an adjustment for percent tested, North Carolina's rank improves to 44th.

Note: The line in Figure 1 represents a state's expected score, a statistic that is based only on percent tested and does not account for other variations in student populations. States above this line are scoring better than expected while states below this line are scoring lower than expected. A state's residual (Table 4) is the difference between their actual and expected scores.

Data Source: Table 4.

Table 4. 1994 Percent Tested, SAT Scores, and Adjusted Total SAT Scores and Ranks Adjusted for Percent Tested

State	Percent Tested	Total Mean	Total Rank	Expected Score	Residual	Residual Rank
Alabama	8	1011	15	1027	-15.6	41
Alaska	49	911	31	891	20.45	12
Arizona	26	939	25	946	-6.93	34
Arkansas	6	995	19	1038	-42.6	49
California	46	895	36	895	0.26	24
Colorado	28	969	23	939	30.01	6
Connecticut	80	898	35	901	-2.51	29
Delaware	68	892	39	885	6.87	19
District of Columbia	53	849	49	886	-37.4	47
Florida	49	879	46	891	-11.5	38
Georgia	65	844	50	884	-39.6	48
Hawaii	58	881	44	883	-2.43	28
Idaho	16	969	22	987	-17.7	42
Illinois	14	1024	9	996	27.94	8
Indiana	60	876	47	883	-6.96	35
Iowa	5	1080	1	1043	36.79	3
Kansas	10	1044	6	1016	28	7
Kentucky	11	997	18	1011	-13.9	40
Louisiana	9	1011	14	1021	-10.2	37
Maine	68	883	42	885	-2.13	26
Maryland	64	908	32	883	24.76	9
Massachusetts	79	901	33	899	2.33	22
Michigan	11	1009	16	1011	-1.87	25
Minnesota	9	1057	3	1021	35.76	4
Mississippi	4	1013	13	1049	-36	46
Missouri	10	1017	12	1016	1	23
Montana	21	986	20	965	20.95	11
Nebraska	9	1025	8	1021	3.76	21
Nevada	30	913	30	933	-19.5	43
New Hampshire	69	924	27	886	38.14	2
New Jersey	71	893	38	888	5.39	20
New Mexico	12	1003	17	1006	-2.83	30
New York	76	888	40	894	-5.77	32
North Carolina	60	860	48	883	-23	44
North Dakota	5	1056	4	1043	12.79	16
Ohio	24	966	24	953	12.72	17
Oklahoma	9	1019	11	1021	-2.24	27
Oregon	53	927	26	886	40.63	1
Pennsylvania	70	879	45	887	-7.68	36
Rhode Island	68	882	43	885	-3.13	31
South Carolina	60	838	51	883	-45	50
South Dakota	5	1031	7	1043	-12.2	39
Tennessee	12	1023	10	1006	17.17	14
Texas	48	886	41	892	-5.84	33
Utah	4	1067	2	1049	18.05	13
Vermont	68	899	34	885	13.87	15
Virginia	65	893	37	884	9.44	18
Washington	49	922	28	891	31.45	5
West Virginia	17	921	29	982	-61.2	51
Wisconsin	9	1044	5	1021	22.76	10
Wyoming	12	980	21	1006	-25.8	45

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Table 5. Yearly Changes and Overall Change in Total SAT Score from 1989 to 1994 for States with 40 Percent or More Seniors Taking the Test

State	1994 Total	Change from 1993 to 1994	Change from 1992 to 1993	Change from 1991 to 1992	Change from 1990 to 1991	Change from 1989 to 1994
Alaska	911	-4	7	-12	6	-12
California	895	-4	-1	3	-6	-11
Connecticut	898	-6	4	3	-4	-10
Delaware	892	-2	-1	3	-11	-11
District of Columl	849	3	4	2	-10	3
Florida	879	-3	-2	2	-2	-8
Georgia	844	0	2	-2	0	-3
Hawaii	881	2	1	-5	-2	-7
Indiana	876	7	1	3	-2	5
Maine	883	-2	3	3	-7	-14
Maryland	908	-1	2	3	-4	-6
Massachusetts	901	-2	1	6	-4	-4
New Hampshire	924	-5	6	2	-7	-8
New Jersey	893	1	1	5	-5	-1
New York	888	1	5	1	-1	-2
North Carolina	860	1	4	11	3	24
Oregon	927	-6	8	3	-1	0
Pennsylvania	879	1	1	1	-7	-7
Rhode Island	882	-1	2	1	-3	-13
South Carolina	838	0	7	-1	-2	0
Texas	886	1	9	2	0	9
Vermont	899	6	-4	7	-7	-6
Virginia	893	-1	1	3	-5	-9
Washington	922	1	5	3	-10	-17

Observations for Table 5:

- North Carolina improved its total SAT score by 1 point in 1994. This is the 5th highest gain among the SAT states, shared by five other states.
- North Carolina had a three year improvement of 16 points, which is the highest among the SAT states and a four year improvement of 19 points, the highest among the SAT states.
- North Carolina is the only SAT state with 5 consecutive years of improvement in total SAT score. The five year increase of 24 far exceeds that of any other SAT state.

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Comparing the Performance of

North Carolina and the Nation

1994 and Historically

This section contains four smaller sections: North Carolina and the United States SAT scores since 1972; a frequency distribution of North Carolina's student scores; a graphical representation of the distribution of scores; and a comparison of student performance with scores disaggregated for selected categories of students (trend data is shown for the past six years).

Table 6. Average Total SAT Scores for North Carolina and the United States: 1972-1994*

	National Average			North Carolina Average		
Year	Verbal	Math	Total	Verbal	Math	Total
1972	**453**	**484**	**937**	**411**	**438**	**849**
1973	**445**	**481**	**926**	**408**	**439**	**847**
1974	**444**	**480**	**924**	**409**	**437**	**846**
1975	434	472	906	399	428	827
1976	431	472	903	396	423	819
1977	429	470	899	394	425	819
1978	**429**	**468**	**897**	**390**	**424**	**814**
1979	**427**	**467**	**894**	**393**	**426**	**819**
1980	**424**	**466**	**890**	**393**	**429**	**822**
1981	424	466	890	391	427	818
1982	426	467	893	396	431	827
1983	425	468	893	394	431	825
1984	**426**	**471**	**897**	**395**	**432**	**827**
1985	**431**	**475**	**906**	**398**	**435**	**833**
1986	**431**	**475**	**906**	**399**	**436**	**835**
1987	430	476	906	400	438	838
1988	428	476	904	401	440	841
1989	427	476	903	397	439	836
1990	**424**	**476**	**900**	**401**	**440**	**841**
1991	**422**	**474**	**896**	**400**	**444**	**844**
1992	**423**	**476**	**899**	**405**	**450**	**855**
1993	424	478	902	406	453	859
1994	423	479	902	405	455	860

*1972 was the first year that the College Board began reporting the most recent SAT scores of seniors, regardless of when the student last took the test. Data prior to that time are not comparable.

Observations for Table 6:

- The average SAT score for the nation was 902 for the second consecutive year. The verbal score decreased by one point while the mathematics score increased by one point.
- In 1994 North Carolina's average total and mathematics scores were the highest achieved in the 23 year history that the College Board has reported the most recent scores of seniors.
- In ten of the last eleven years, North Carolina's total SAT score has exceeded the previous year's score.
- In the last ten years North Carolina has slowly been closing the gap between its average and the national average in both the verbal and mathematics sections. Currently, the United States average is 18 points above the North Carolina average for verbal and 24 points higher than the North Carolina average for mathematics.

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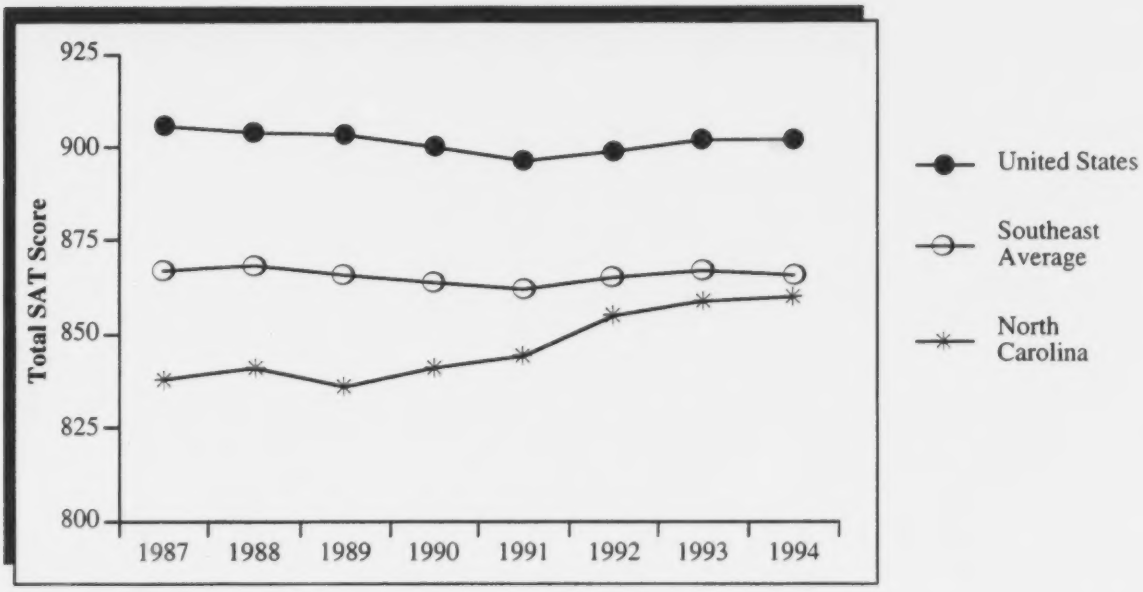
Figure 2. Average Total SAT Scores for the United States, the Southeast Region and North Carolina: 1987–1994



Year	United States	Southeast	North Carolina
1987	906	867	838
1988	904	868	841
1989	903	866	836
1990	900	864	841
1991	896	862	844
1992	899	865	855
1993	902	867	859
1994	902	866	860

Observations:

- In 1994 North Carolina's average total score was the highest achieved in the 23 year history that the College Board has reported the most recent scores of seniors.

- The trend line for the United States from 1987 to 1994 shows that the United States was on a downward trend from 1987 to 1991, slightly up in 1992 and 1993, and level in 1994. The trend line for North Carolina has generally been up since 1984. North Carolina has improved upon its score from the previous year in nine of the last ten years, while gaining an average of a little more than 3 points per year over this period.

Data Source: Tables 2 and 6.

Table 7. Frequency Distributions of North Carolina 1994 SAT Verbal and Mathematics Scores

Verbal		(Mean = 405)		Mathematics		(Mean = 455)
Number	Percent	N. C. Percentile	Score	Number	Percent	N. C. Percentile
4	0.01	99	800	12	0.04	99
0	0.00	99	790	20	0.06	99
0	0.00	99	780	39	0.12	99
5	0.02	99	770	22	0.07	99
10	0.03	99	760	48	0.15	99
13	0.04	99	750	78	0.24	99
15	0.05	99	740	122	0.37	99
17	0.05	99	730	108	0.33	99
46	0.14	99	720	112	0.34	98
38	0.12	99	710	148	0.45	98
67	0.20	99	700	74	0.22	98
61	0.18	99	690	170	0.52	97
70	0.21	99	680	209	0.63	97
67	0.20	99	670	301	0.91	96
87	0.26	99	660	298	0.90	95
109	0.33	98	650	292	0.88	94
151	0.46	98	640	335	1.02	93
137	0.42	97	630	195	0.59	92
170	0.52	97	620	422	1.28	92
235	0.71	96	610	434	1.32	90
207	0.63	96	600	485	1.47	89
230	0.70	95	590	620	1.88	87
343	1.04	94	580	625	1.89	85
299	0.91	93	570	620	1.88	83
439	1.33	92	560	735	2.23	81
382	1.16	91	550	720	2.18	79
543	1.65	89	540	753	2.28	77
441	1.34	88	530	833	2.52	75
735	2.23	86	520	950	2.88	72
462	1.40	84	510	1107	3.35	69
898	2.72	82	500	957	2.90	66
513	1.55	80	490	963	2.92	63
978	2.96	78	480	1056	3.20	60
1116	3.38	75	470	976	2.96	57
712	2.16	72	460	1113	3.37	53
1200	3.64	69	450	1300	3.94	50
917	2.78	66	440	1016	3.08	46
1419	4.30	62	430	1093	3.31	43
1005	3.05	59	420	998	3.02	40
1376	4.17	55	410	928	2.81	37
1172	3.55	51	400	1052	3.19	34
1441	4.37	47	390	871	2.64	31
1060	3.21	43	380	926	2.81	28
1514	4.59	40	370	1007	3.05	25
1069	3.24	36	360	827	2.51	23
1530	4.64	32	350	969	2.94	20
1010	3.06	28	340	782	2.37	17
1070	3.24	25	330	771	2.34	15
985	2.98	22	320	620	1.88	13
954	2.89	19	310	614	1.86	11
862	2.61	16	300	844	2.56	9
891	2.70	13	290	494	1.50	7
722	2.19	11	280	370	1.12	5
720	2.18	9	270	374	1.13	4
462	1.40	7	260	331	1.00	3
395	1.20	6	250	322	0.98	2
419	1.27	4	240	195	0.59	1
298	0.90	3	230	121	0.37	1
216	0.65	2	220	85	0.26	1
231	0.70	2	210	61	0.18	0
465	1.41	1	200	80	0.24	0

Note: Data are from the 119 Public School Systems and 2 Special Schools.

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Figure 3. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 Individual SAT Verbal Scores

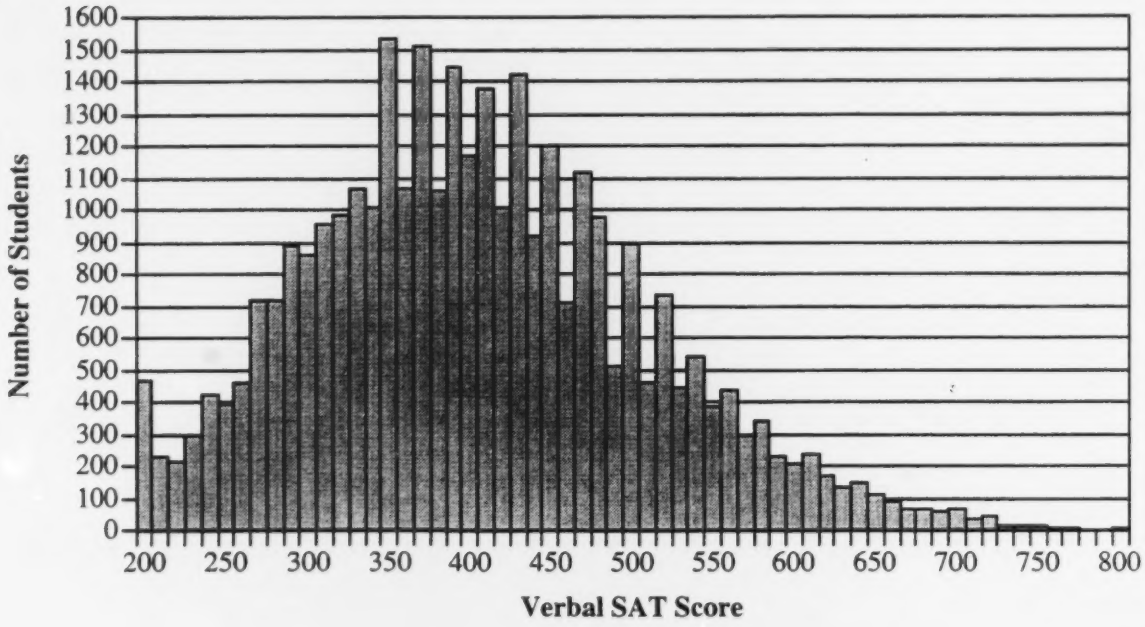
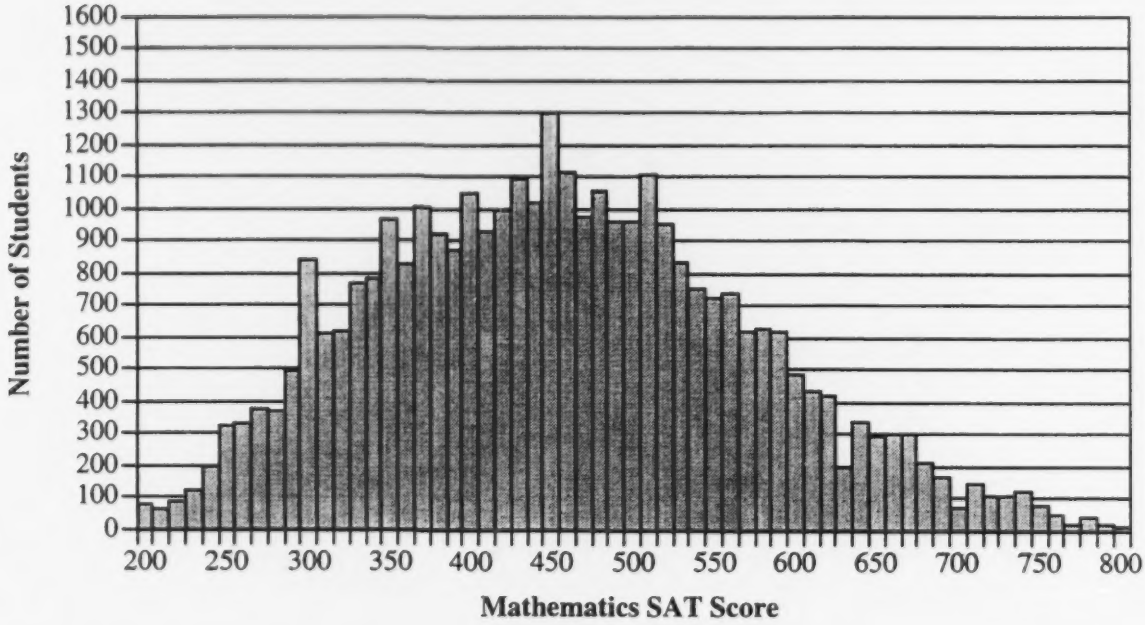


Figure 4. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 Individual SAT Mathematics Scores



Note: Data are from the 119 Public School Systems and 2 special schools.

Table 8. Total Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States

	North Carolina			United States		Difference from U.S.
	N	Average	%	Average	%	
All Students	36,420	860	100	902	100	-42
Sex						
Male	16,282	879	45	926	47	-47
Female	20,138	844	55	881	53	-37
Race/Ethnicity						
American Indian	539	755	2	837	1	-82
Asian American	858	921	3	951	9	-30
Black	7,020	723	21	740	11	-17
White	24,817	905	73	938	69	-33
Other	634	865	1	825	10	40
No response	2,552					
Parent Education Level						
No High School Diploma	932	730	3	743	5	-13
High School Diploma	14,369	806	43	838	36	-32
Associate Degree	3,496	837	10	864	8	-27
Bachelor's Degree	8,814	906	26	946	27	-40
Graduate Degree	6,159	978	18	1013	24	-35
Family Income						
Less than $10,000	1,533	737	5	766	6	-29
$10,000 - $20,000	3,692	780	12	812	11	-32
$20,000 - $30,000	5,018	822	16	856	13	-34
$30,000 - $40,000	5,657	851	18	885	16	-34
$40,000 - $50,000	4,252	875	13	911	13	-36
$50,000 - $60,000	3,610	896	11	929	11	-33
$60,000 - $70,000	2,427	910	8	948	8	-38
More than $70,000	5,414	964	17	1000	23	-36
No response	4,817					
Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects						
20 or more	9,566	952	33	996	41	-44
19 to 19.5	4,175	913	15	932	14	-19
18 to 18.5	4,114	865	14	891	13	-26
17 to 17.5	3,323	822	12	848	10	-26
16 to 16/5	2,426	783	8	813	7	-30
15 to 15.5	1,838	781	6	795	6	-14
Fewer than 15	3,277	742	11	750	9	-8
No response	7,701					
High School Grade Point Average						
A+ (97-100)	2,076	1119	6	1165	5	-46
A (93-96)	5,061	1008	15	1065	13	-57
A- (90-92)	4,768	937	14	1002	14	-65
B (80-89)	16,324	816	48	863	51	-47
C (70-79)	5,474	717	16	746	16	-29
D or below	155	670	0	708	0	-38
No Response	2,562					
High School Class Rank						
Top Tenth	6,340	1055	21	1098	22	-43
Second Tenth	6,726	915	22	961	22	-46
Second Fifth	8,394	834	28	877	27	-43
Third Fifth	7,528	751	25	788	24	-37
Fourth Fifth	1,212	689	4	731	4	-42
Bottom Fifth	294	653	1	695	1	-42
No response	5,926					

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Table 9. Verbal Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States

	North Carolina			United States		Difference from U.S.
	N	Average	%	Average	%	
All Students	36,420	405	100	423	100	-18
Sex						
Male	16,282	406	45	425	47	-19
Female	20,138	405	55	421	53	-16
Race/Ethnicity						
American Indian	539	352	2	396	1	-44
Asian American	858	406	3	416	9	-10
Black	7,020	342	21	352	11	-10
White	24,817	427	73	443	69	-16
Other	634	412	1	386	10	26
No response	2,552					
Parent Education Level						
No High School Diploma	932	339	3	336	5	3
High School Diploma	14,369	379	43	393	36	-14
Associate Degree	3,496	395	10	406	8	-11
Bachelor's Degree	8,814	427	26	443	27	-16
Graduate Degree	6,159	464	18	478	24	-14
Family Income						
Less than $10,000	1,533	347	5	350	6	-3
$10,000 - $20,000	3,692	368	12	377	11	-9
$20,000 - $30,000	5,018	388	16	402	13	-14
$30,000 - $40,000	5,657	402	18	416	16	-14
$40,000 - $50,000	4,252	412	13	429	13	-17
$50,000 - $60,000	3,610	422	11	437	11	-15
$60,000 - $70,000	2,427	428	8	446	8	-18
More than $70,000	5,414	454	17	469	23	-15
No response						0
Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects						
20 or more	9,566	452	33	470	41	-18
19 to 19.5	4,175	431	15	437	14	-6
18 to 18.5	4,114	406	14	416	13	-10
17 to 17.5	3,323	384	12	396	10	-12
16 to 16.5	2,426	367	8	380	7	-13
15 to 15.5	1,838	367	6	371	6	-4
Fewer than 15	3,277	346	11	347	9	-1
No response	7,701					
High School Grade Point Average						
A+ (97-100)	2,076	526	6	545	5	-19
A (93-96)	5,061	473	15	497	13	-24
A- (90-92)	4,768	439	14	467	14	-28
B (80-89)	16,324	385	48	405	51	-20
C (70-79)	5,474	341	16	353	16	-12
D or below	155	323	0	336	0	-13
No Response	2,562					
High School Class Rank						
Top Tenth	6,340	495	21	512	22	-17
Second Tenth	6,726	429	22	447	22	-18
Second Fifth	8,394	392	28	410	27	-18
Third Fifth	7,528	357	25	373	24	-16
Fourth Fifth	1,212	330	4	349	4	-19
Bottom Fifth	294	313	1	332	1	-19
No response	5,926					

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Table 10. Mathematics Score Breakdown: North Carolina and the United States

	North Carolina			United States		Difference from U.S.
	N	Average	%	Average	%	
All Students	36,420	455	100	479	100	-24
Sex						
Male	16,282	473	45	501	47	-28
Female	20,138	439	55	460	53	-21
Race/Ethnicity						
American Indian	539	403	2	441	1	-38
Asian American	858	515	3	535	9	-20
Black	7,020	381	21	388	11	-7
White	24,817	478	73	495	69	-17
Other	634	453	1	439	10	14
No response	2,552					
Parent Education Level						
No High School Diploma	932	391	3	407	5	-16
High School Diploma	14,369	427	43	445	36	-18
Associate Degree	3,496	442	10	458	8	-16
Bachelor's Degree	8,814	479	26	503	27	-24
Graduate Degree	6,159	514	18	535	24	-21
Family Income						
Less than $10,000	1,533	390	5	416	6	-26
$10,000 - $20,000	3,692	412	12	435	11	-23
$20,000 - $30,000	5,018	434	16	454	13	-20
$30,000 - $40,000	5,657	449	18	469	16	-20
$40,000 - $50,000	4,252	463	13	482	13	-19
$50,000 - $60,000	3,610	474	11	492	11	-18
$60,000 - $70,000	2,427	482	8	502	8	-20
More than $70,000	5,414	510	17	531	23	-21
No response	4,817					
Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects						
20 or more	9,566	500	33	526	41	-26
19 to 19.5	4,175	482	15	495	14	-13
18 to 18.5	4,114	459	14	475	13	-16
17 to 17.5	3,323	438	12	452	10	-14
16 to 16.5	2,426	416	8	433	7	-17
15 to 15.5	1,838	414	6	424	6	-10
Fewer than 15	3,277	396	11	403	9	-7
No response	7,701					
High School Grade Point Average						
A+ (97-100)	2,076	593	6	620	5	-27
A (93-96)	5,061	535	15	568	13	-33
A- (90-92)	4,768	498	14	535	14	-37
B (80-89)	16,324	431	48	458	51	-27
C (70-79)	5,474	376	16	393	16	-17
D or below	155	347	0	372	0	-25
No Response	2,562					
High School Class Rank						
Top Tenth	6,340	560	21	586	22	-26
Second Tenth	6,726	486	22	514	22	-28
Second Fifth	8,394	442	28	467	27	-25
Third Fifth	7,528	394	25	415	24	-21
Fourth Fifth	1,212	359	4	382	4	-23
Bottom Fifth	294	340	1	363	1	-23
No response	5,926					

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Table 11. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994

	1989			1990			1991			1992			1993			1994		
	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.
All Students	903	836	67	900	841	59	896	844	52	899	855	44	902	859	43	902	860	42
Sex																		
Male	934	860	74	928	863	65	923	865	58	927	877	50	930	882	48	926	879	47
Female	875	816	59	874	823	51	871	828	43	875	837	38	877	839	38	881	844	37
Race/Ethnicity																		
American Indian	812	768	44	825	769	56	830	764	66	837	764	73	847	775	72	837	755	82
Asian American	934	889	45	938	902	36	941	912	29	945	923	22	950	920	30	951	921	30
Black	737	696	41	737	702	35	736	710	26	737	719	18	741	722	19	740	723	17
White	937	881	56	933	886	47	930	890	40	933	901	32	938	904	34	938	905	33
Other	821	865	-44	818	852	-34	816	860	-44	819	866	-47	823	869	-46	825	865	-40
Parent Education Level																		
No Diploma	757	715	42	754	723	31	748	730	18	747	733	14	746	729	17	743	730	13
High School Diploma	847	793	54	842	799	43	838	799	39	837	805	32	840	808	32	838	806	32
Associate Degree	870	818	52	866	821	45	861	821	40	864	828	36	865	832	33	864	837	27
Bachelor's Degree	943	889	54	941	890	51	939	897	42	943	908	35	947	909	38	946	906	40
Graduate Degree	1003	942	61	1005	956	49	1004	961	43	1006	974	32	1012	977	35	1013	978	35
Family Income																		
Less than $10,000	780	716	64	776	720	56	768	722	46	767	738	29	768	729	39	766	737	29
$10,000-$20,000	829	771	58	820	769	51	813	778	35	812	776	36	813	780	33	812	780	32
$20,000-$30,000	870	815	55	864	816	48	856	818	38	856	826	30	857	825	32	856	822	34
$30,000-$40,000	898	841	57	889	842	47	884	840	44	885	849	36	887	853	34	885	851	34
$40,000-$50,000	924	868	56	918	872	46	910	867	43	910	879	31	914	875	39	911	875	36
$50,000-$60,000	944	890	54	938	887	51	931	891	40	932	904	28	933	900	33	929	896	33
$60,000-$70,000	959	907	52	953	903	50	949	909	40	950	919	31	953	923	30	948	910	38
$70,000 or more	996	942	54	995	949	46	997	950	47	1000	961	39	1005	970	35	1000	964	36
Total Credits in Six Subjects																		
20 or more	1005	951	54	1001	945	56	996	951	45	996	960	36	999	958	41	996	952	44
19 or 19.5	937	903	34	930	903	27	923	899	24	922	905	17	923	898	25	932	913	19
18 or 18.5	901	858	43	892	860	32	884	851	33	884	863	21	883	861	22	891	865	26
17 or 17.5	860	818	42	851	818	33	844	816	28	844	817	27	846	824	22	848	822	26
16 or 16.5	824	780	44	815	777	38	810	778	32	812	781	31	817	787	30	813	783	30
15 or 15.5	797	764	33	791	756	35	789	760	29	795	768	27	802	779	23	795	781	14
Fewer than 15	758	715	43	755	724	31	755	733	22	765	748	17	776	767	9	750	742	8
High School GPA																		
A+ (97-100)	1178	1103	75	1177	1114	63	1172	1107	65	1171	1133	38	1170	1126	44	1165	1119	46
A (93-96)	1079	998	81	1076	1001	75	1074	1005	69	1072	1018	54	1070	1014	56	1065	1008	57
A- (90-92)	1014	924	90	1012	934	78	1008	929	79	1006	937	69	1004	933	71	1002	937	65
B (80-89)	878	805	73	871	803	68	866	807	59	867	815	52	866	817	49	863	816	47
C (70-79)	760	704	56	755	709	46	751	712	39	750	712	38	748	714	34	746	717	29
D or below	727	698	29	730	680	50	719	684	35	717	673	44	717	674	43	708	670	38
High School Rank																		
Top Tenth	1100	1032	68	1097	1038	59	1096	1036	60	1097	1055	42	1099	1054	45	1098	1055	43
Second Tenth	965	898	67	961	906	55	959	907	52	959	913	46	962	919	43	961	915	46
Second Fifth	879	813	66	875	818	57	873	820	53	876	832	44	878	834	44	877	834	43
Third Fifth	786	725	61	783	727	56	781	737	44	784	741	43	786	747	39	788	751	37
Fourth Fifth	735	680	55	732	682	50	729	684	45	729	689	40	730	688	42	731	689	42
Bottom Fifth	719	641	78	712	667	45	708	654	54	701	674	27	699	664	35	695	653	42

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Table 12. United States and North Carolina Verbal SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994

	1989			1990			1991			1992			1993			1994		
	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.
All Students	427	397	30	424	401	23	422	400	22	423	405	18	424	406	18	423	405	18
Sex																		
Male	434	402	32	429	404	25	426	403	23	428	408	20	428	409	19	425	406	19
Female	421	393	28	419	398	21	418	398	20	419	402	17	420	403	17	421	405	16
Race/Ethnicity																		
American Indian	384	364	20	388	361	27	393	357	36	395	357	38	400	363	37	396	352	44
Asian American	409	395	14	410	401	9	411	405	6	413	410	3	415	404	11	416	406	10
Black	351	328	23	352	334	18	351	336	15	352	341	11	353	342	11	352	342	10
White	446	420	26	442	423	19	441	423	18	442	427	15	444	428	16	443	427	16
Other	386	415	-29	384	409	-25	383	410	-27	384	413	-29	386	413	-27	386	412	-26
Parent Education Level																		
No Diploma	345	336	9	342	338	4	339	342	-3	338	341	-3	338	339	-1	336	339	-3
High School Diploma	400	376	24	397	380	17	395	378	17	394	380	14	395	381	14	393	379	14
Associate Degree	412	389	23	409	391	18	407	389	18	408	393	15	408	394	14	406	395	11
Bachelor's Degree	446	423	23	443	424	19	442	425	17	444	430	14	445	430	15	443	427	16
Graduate Degree	477	450	27	476	458	18	476	458	18	476	463	13	478	465	13	478	464	14
Family Income																		
Less than $10,000	360	338	22	357	342	15	353	342	11	352	347	5	352	342	10	350	347	3
$10,000-$20,000	389	367	22	383	366	17	379	368	11	378	367	11	379	368	11	377	368	9
$20,000-$30,000	412	388	24	407	389	18	404	388	16	403	391	12	404	390	14	402	388	14
$30,000-$40,000	426	400	26	420	401	19	418	399	19	418	403	15	418	404	14	416	402	14
$40,000-$50,000	438	412	26	434	415	19	430	410	20	430	417	13	431	415	16	429	412	17
$50,000-$60,000	448	422	26	443	423	20	440	422	18	440	428	12	440	425	15	437	422	15
$60,000-$70,000	455	430	25	450	429	21	449	432	17	449	435	14	449	437	12	446	428	18
$70,000 or more	471	447	24	468	450	18	469	449	20	470	452	18	472	456	16	469	454	15
Total Credits in Six Subjects																		
20 or more	476	454	22	472	452	20	470	453	17	470	457	13	471	456	15	470	452	18
19 or 19.5	443	430	13	438	430	8	435	426	9	434	427	7	434	424	10	437	431	6
18 or 18.5	426	406	20	420	408	12	416	402	14	416	406	10	415	406	9	416	406	10
17 or 17.5	407	387	20	401	388	13	398	385	13	397	384	13	397	387	10	396	384	12
16 or 16.5	390	368	22	384	368	16	382	367	15	382	368	14	384	370	14	380	367	13
15 or 15.5	377	362	15	373	359	14	372	359	13	374	362	12	377	367	10	371	367	4
Fewer than 15	357	339	18	354	344	10	353	346	7	357	352	5	361	360	1	347	346	1
High School GPA																		
A+ (97-100)	552	519	33	551	525	26	549	523	26	548	532	16	547	529	18	545	526	19
A (93-96)	506	472	34	503	473	30	503	474	29	501	480	21	500	478	22	497	473	24
A- (90-92)	476	436	40	473	442	31	471	438	33	470	440	30	469	439	30	467	439	28
B (80-89)	416	383	33	411	383	28	409	383	26	409	387	22	408	387	21	405	385	20
C (70-79)	363	337	26	359	341	18	357	341	16	357	339	18	355	340	15	353	341	12
D or below	345	344	1	343	331	12	338	324	14	338	319	19	339	324	15	336	323	13
High School Rank																		
Top Tenth	515	487	28	512	490	22	512	488	24	512	496	16	513	496	17	512	495	17
Second Tenth	453	425	28	449	429	20	448	428	20	448	430	18	449	432	17	447	429	18
Second Fifth	416	386	30	412	390	22	411	388	23	412	394	18	412	394	18	410	392	18
Third Fifth	376	347	29	373	349	24	372	352	20	373	353	20	373	355	18	373	357	16
Fourth Fifth	354	327	27	351	329	22	350	329	21	350	329	21	350	328	22	349	330	19
Bottom Fifth	346	307	39	342	324	18	340	314	26	338	327	11	336	320	16	332	313	19

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Table 13. United States and North Carolina Mathematics SAT Scores for Categories of Students: 1989–1994

	1989			1990			1991			1992			1993			1994		
	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.	U.S.	N.C.	Diff.
All Students	476	439	37	476	440	36	474	444	30	476	450	26	478	453	25	479	455	24
Sex																		
Male	500	458	42	499	459	40	497	462	35	499	469	30	502	473	29	501	473	28
Female	454	423	31	455	425	30	453	430	23	456	435	21	457	436	21	460	439	21
Race/Ethnicity																		
American Indian	428	404	24	437	408	29	437	407	30	442	407	35	447	412	35	441	403	38
Asian American	525	494	31	528	501	27	530	507	23	532	513	19	535	516	19	535	515	20
Black	386	368	18	385	368	17	385	374	11	385	378	7	388	380	8	388	381	7
White	491	461	30	491	463	28	489	467	22	491	474	17	494	476	18	495	478	17
Other	435	450	-15	434	443	-9	433	450	-17	435	453	-18	437	456	-19	439	453	-14
Parent Education Level																		
No Diploma	412	379	33	412	385	27	409	388	21	409	392	17	408	390	18	407	391	16
High School Diploma	447	417	30	445	419	26	443	421	22	443	425	18	445	427	18	445	427	18
Associate Degree	458	429	29	457	430	27	454	432	22	456	435	21	457	438	19	458	442	16
Bachelor's Degree	497	466	31	498	466	32	497	472	25	499	478	21	502	479	23	503	479	24
Graduate Degree	526	492	34	529	498	31	528	503	25	530	511	19	534	512	22	535	514	21
Family Income																		
Less than $10,000	420	378	42	419	378	41	415	380	35	415	391	24	416	387	29	416	390	26
$10,000-$20,000	440	404	36	437	403	34	434	410	24	434	409	25	434	412	22	435	412	23
$20,000-$30,000	458	427	31	457	427	30	452	430	22	453	435	18	453	435	18	454	434	20
$30,000-$40,000	472	441	31	469	441	28	466	441	25	467	446	21	469	449	20	469	449	20
$40,000-$50,000	486	456	30	484	457	27	480	457	23	480	462	18	483	460	23	482	463	19
$50,000-$60,000	496	468	28	495	464	31	491	469	22	492	476	16	493	475	18	492	474	18
$60,000-$70,000	504	477	27	503	474	29	500	477	23	501	484	17	504	486	18	502	482	20
$70,000 or more	525	495	30	527	499	28	528	501	27	530	509	21	533	514	19	531	510	21
Total Credits in Six Subjects																		
20 or more	529	497	32	529	493	36	526	498	28	526	503	23	528	502	26	526	500	26
19 or 19.5	494	473	21	492	473	19	488	473	15	488	478	10	489	474	15	495	482	13
18 or 18.5	475	452	23	472	452	20	468	449	19	468	457	11	468	455	13	475	459	16
17 or 17.5	453	431	22	450	430	20	446	431	15	447	433	14	449	437	12	452	438	14
16 or 16.5	434	412	22	431	409	22	428	411	17	430	413	17	433	417	16	433	416	17
15 or 15.5	420	402	18	418	397	21	417	401	16	421	406	15	425	412	13	424	414	10
Fewer than 15	401	376	25	401	380	21	402	387	15	408	396	12	415	407	8	403	396	7
High School GPA																		
A+ (97-100)	626	584	42	626	589	37	623	584	39	623	601	22	623	597	26	620	593	27
A (93-96)	573	526	47	573	528	45	571	531	40	571	538	33	570	536	34	568	535	33
A- (90-92)	538	488	50	539	492	47	537	491	46	536	497	39	535	494	41	535	498	37
B (80-89)	462	422	40	460	420	40	457	424	33	458	428	30	458	430	28	458	431	27
C (70-79)	397	367	30	396	368	28	394	371	23	393	373	20	393	374	19	393	376	17
D or below	382	354	28	387	349	38	381	360	21	379	354	25	378	350	28	372	347	25
High School Rank																		
Top Tenth	585	545	40	585	548	37	584	548	36	585	559	26	586	558	28	586	560	26
Second Tenth	512	473	39	512	477	35	511	479	32	511	483	28	513	487	26	514	486	28
Second Fifth	463	427	36	463	428	35	462	432	30	464	438	26	466	440	26	467	442	25
Third Fifth	410	378	32	410	378	32	409	385	24	411	388	23	413	392	21	415	394	21
Fourth Fifth	381	353	28	381	353	28	379	355	24	379	360	19	380	360	20	382	359	23
Bottom Fifth	373	334	39	370	343	27	368	340	28	363	347	16	363	344	19	363	340	23

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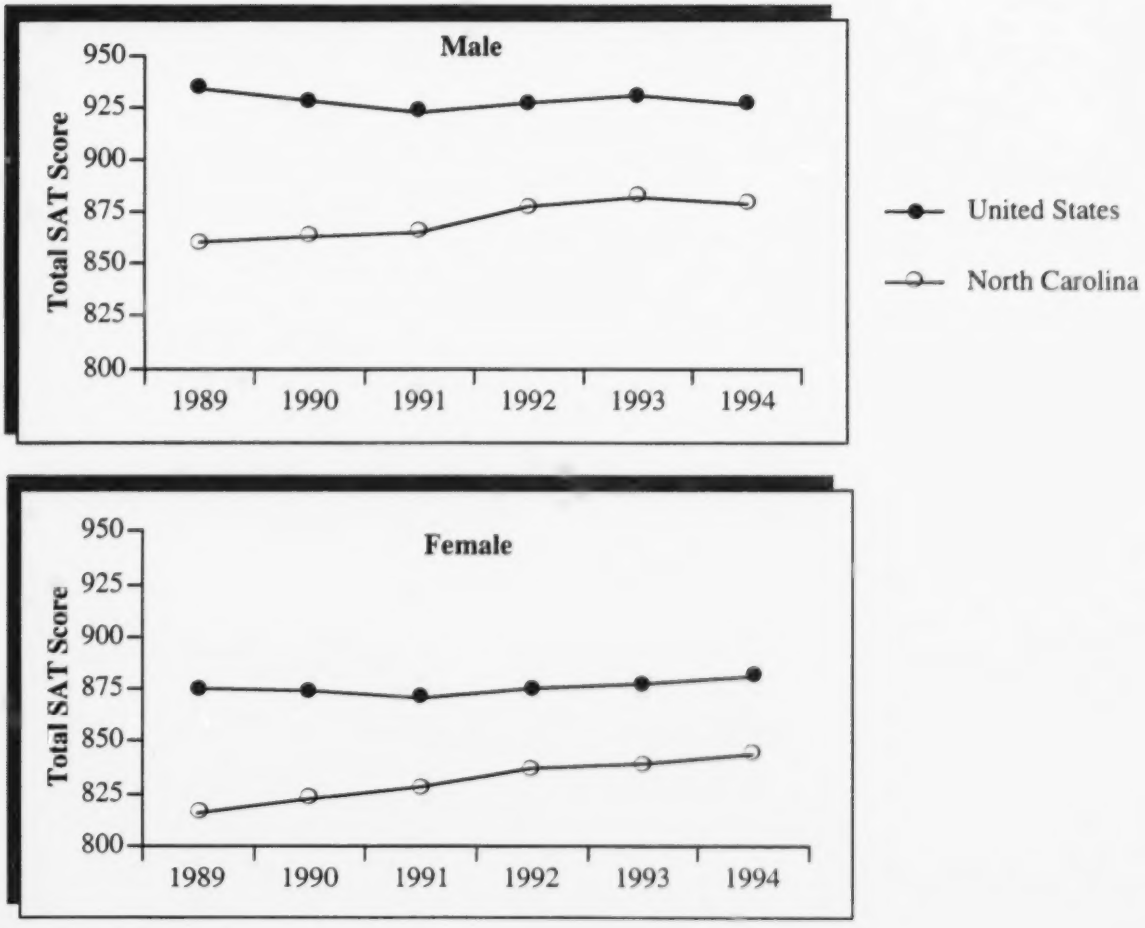
Figure 5. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Male and Female Students: 1989-1994



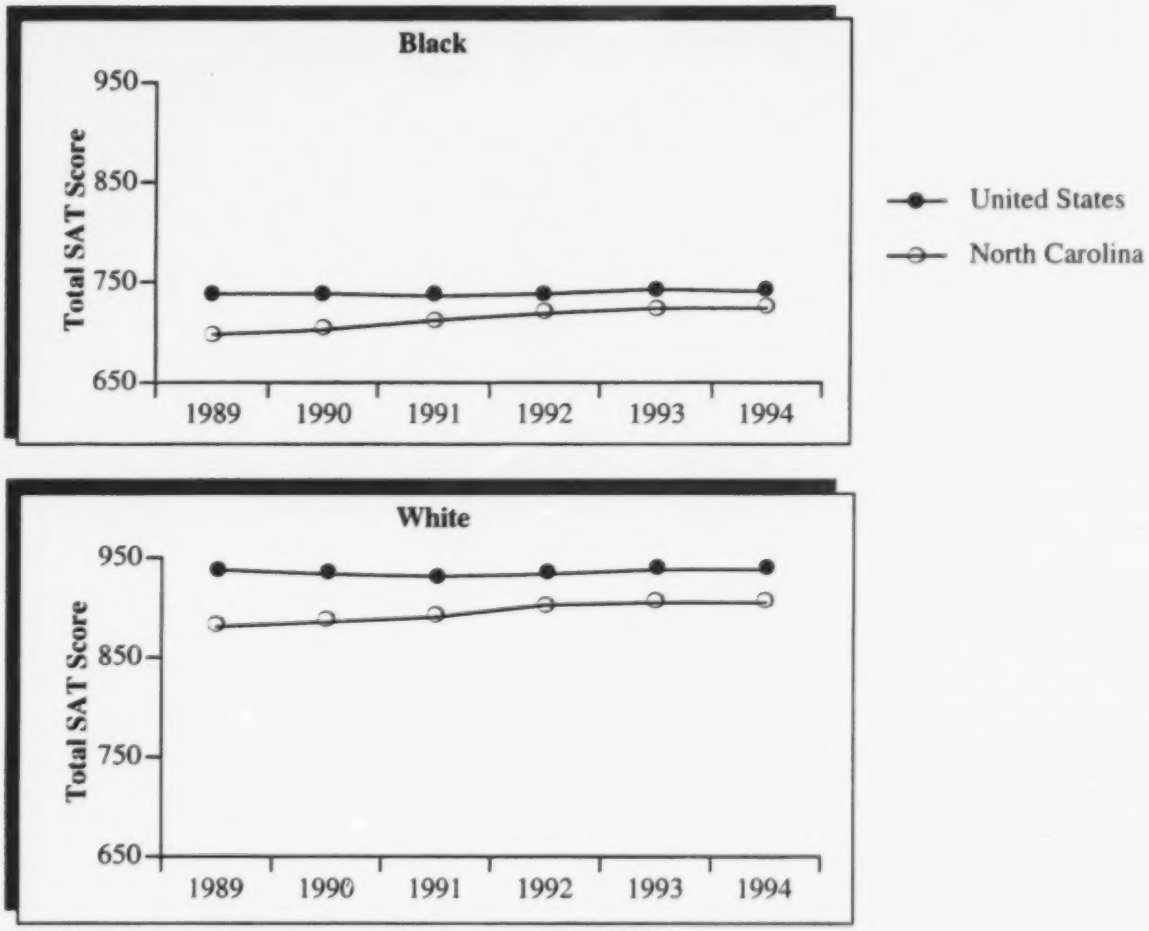
Observations:

- Since 1991 female scores have steadily risen. In the last three years females have increased their math score 7 points and their verbal score 3 points. In North Carolina females have increased their math score 9 points and their verbal score 7 points.

- The difference between male and female scores has narrowed to 45 points nationally and to 35 points in North Carolina. The difference in 1989 was 59 points nationally and 44 points in North Carolina.

Data Source: Table 11.

Figure 6. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Black and White Students: 1989-1994



Observations:

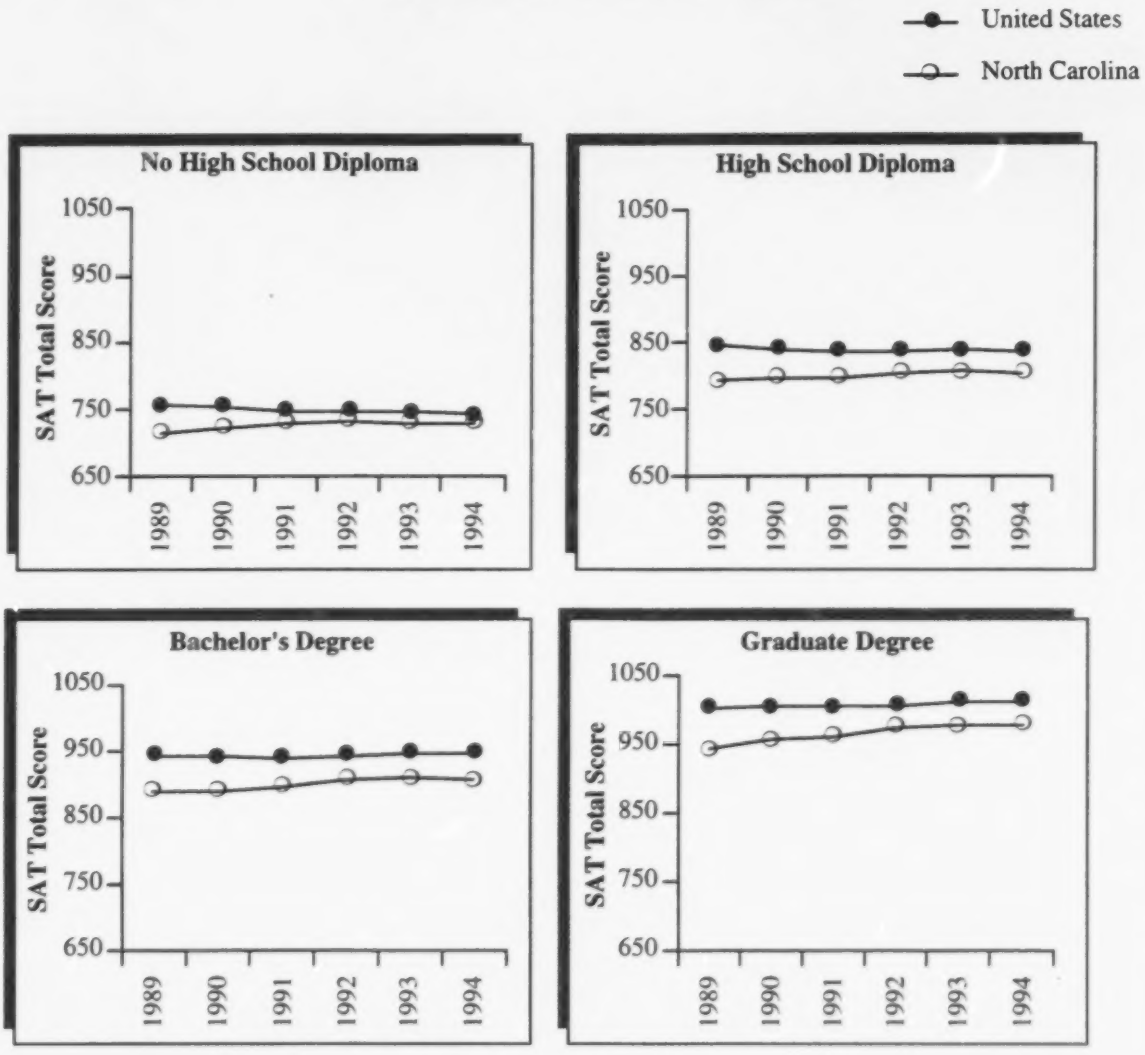
- The gap between the national and the North Carolina total SAT scores for black and white students has narrowed from 1989 to 1994.

- Black student scores continue to be significantly lower than white student scores; however, in North Carolina black students scored 17 points below the national average for black students, whereas white students in North Carolina scored 33 points below the national average for white students.

Data Source: Table 11.

41

Figure 7. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students by Parent Education Level: 1989-1994

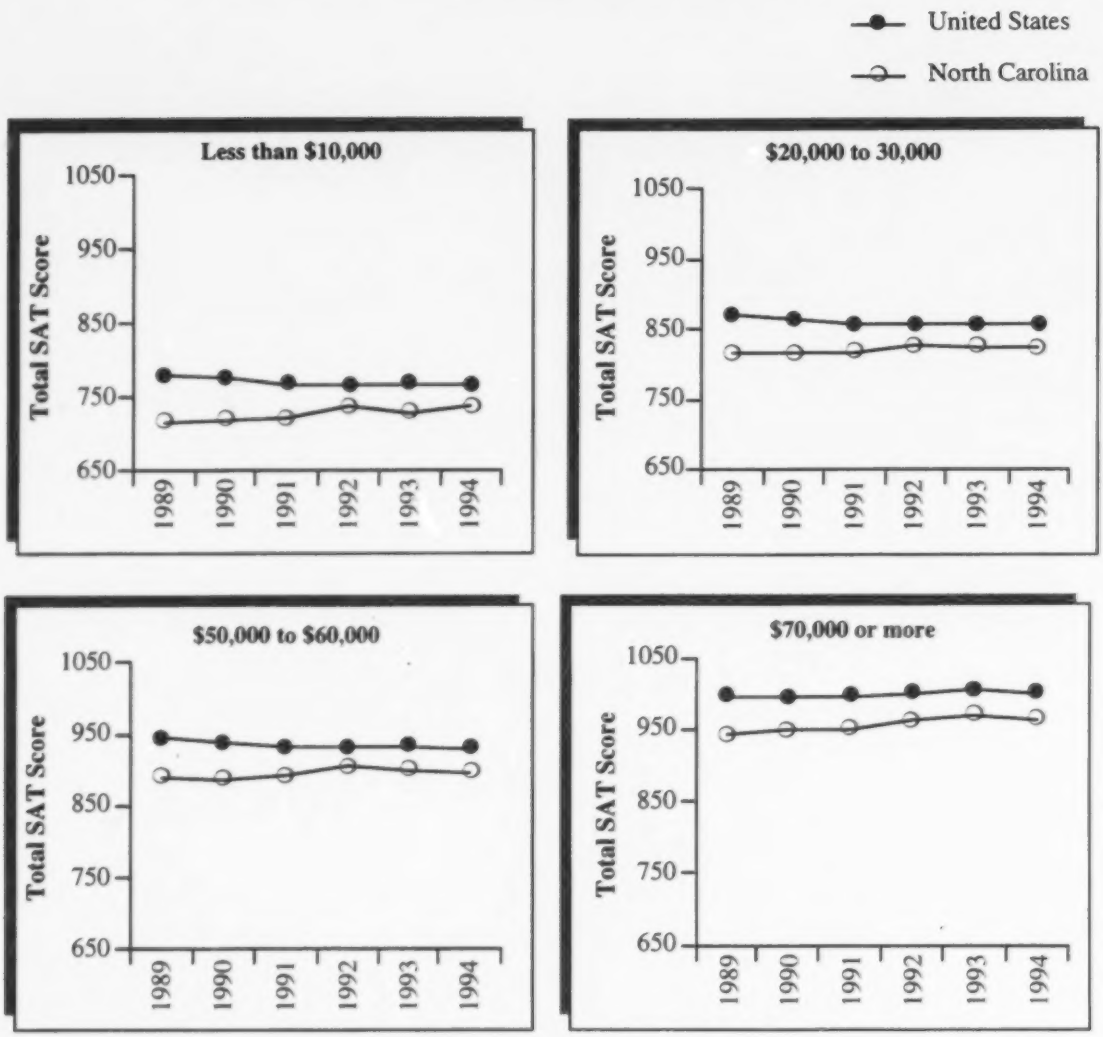


Observations:

- The gap between the national and the North Carolina total SAT scores for students in all parent education levels has narrowed between 1989 and 1994.
- Student scores increase as parent education level increases. The percent of North Carolina students reporting a parent with a graduate degree is much lower than the national average (18% in North Carolina versus 24% nationally).

Data Source: Tables 8 and 11.

Figure 8. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students by Family Income: 1989-1994



Observations:

- The gap between the national and the North Carolina total SAT scores for students in various family income groups has narrowed between 1989 and 1994. The narrowing of the gap has occurred across all income groups, with the largest gains occurring in the lower income groups.
- Student scores increase as family income increases.
- Seventeen percent of North Carolina students reported a family income in excess of $70,000. Nationally, 23 percent of students reported this income level.

Data Source: Table 8 and 11.

Figure 9a. United States and North Carolina SAT Total Scores for Students With 20 or More Years of Study in Six Academic Subjects: 1989–1994

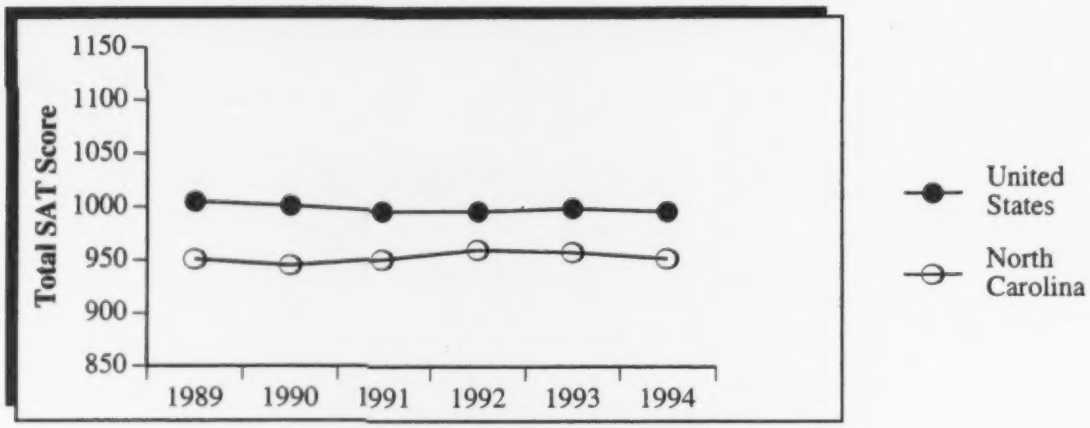
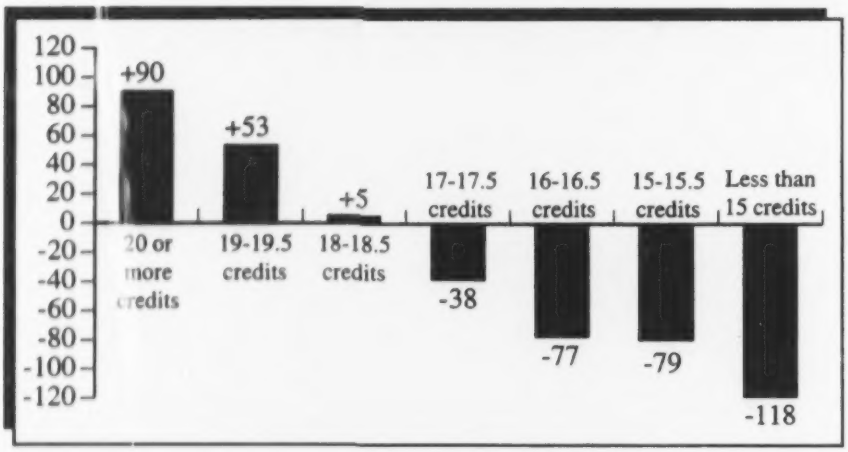


Figure 9b. Average Amount of Score Points Above and Below the Mean (860) for Various Credits in Academic Subjects, 1994 (North Carolina)



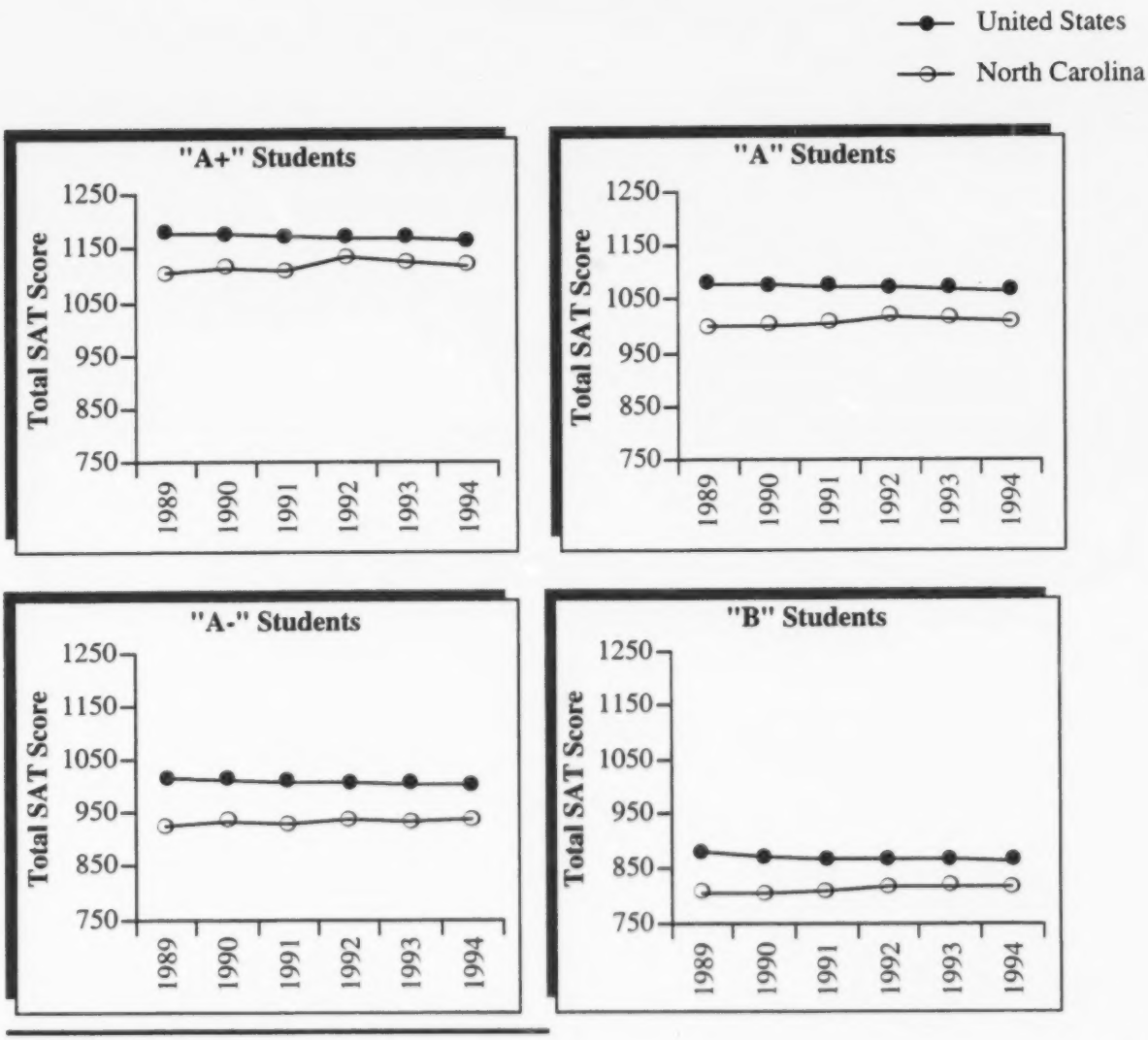
Observations:

- The gap between the national and the North Carolina total SAT scores, for students who have twenty or more credits in six academic subjects, has narrowed since 1989. The largest gap in that time period was 56 in 1990. The lowest difference was 36 in 1992 (the 1994 difference was 43).
- Figure 9b shows the importance of taking (or planning to take) a rigorous course of study that emphasizes the six core academic subject areas.

Note: The six academic subject areas are: Arts and Music, Foreign and Classical Languages, Social Sciences and History, Mathematics, English, and Natural Sciences.

Data Source: Table 11.

Figure 10. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for A+, A, A-, and B Students: 1989-1994



Observations:

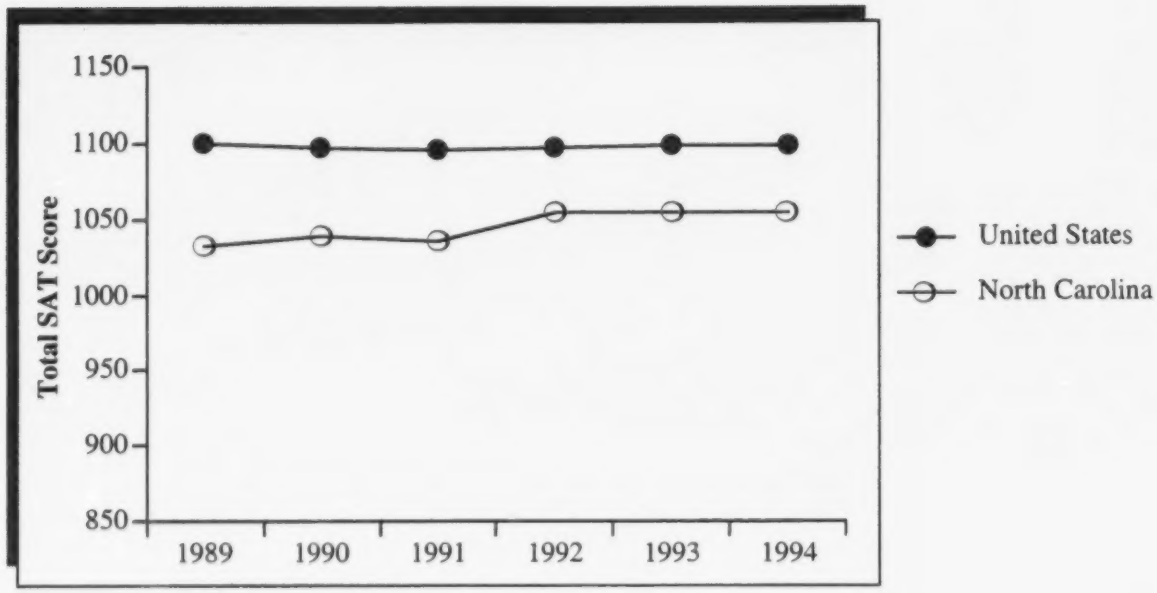
- North Carolina's top student scores are consistently lower than top student scores across the U.S. The gap between national and North Carolina total SAT scores for students with grades of A+, A, A- and B has narrowed since 1989. The gap between national and North Carolina A+ students reached a high of 75 in 1989. The lowest difference of 38 occurred in 1992 (the 1994 difference was 46).

- Thirty-five percent of North Carolina students taking the SAT report a grade point average of A+, A, or A-. Nationally this figure is 32 percent.

Note: Students who reported having a grade point average of B+, B or B- are included as "B" students.

Data Source: Table 8 and 11.

Figure 11. United States and North Carolina Total SAT Scores for Students in the Top Ten Percent of their High School Class: 1989-1994



Observations:

- The gap between the national and the North Carolina total SAT scores for students in the top tenth of their class has narrowed since 1989, when the difference was 68 points. The lowest difference of 42 was in 1992 (the 1994 difference was 43).

- The results clearly show that North Carolina's top students perform at a much lower level than top students nationally.

Data Source: Table 11.

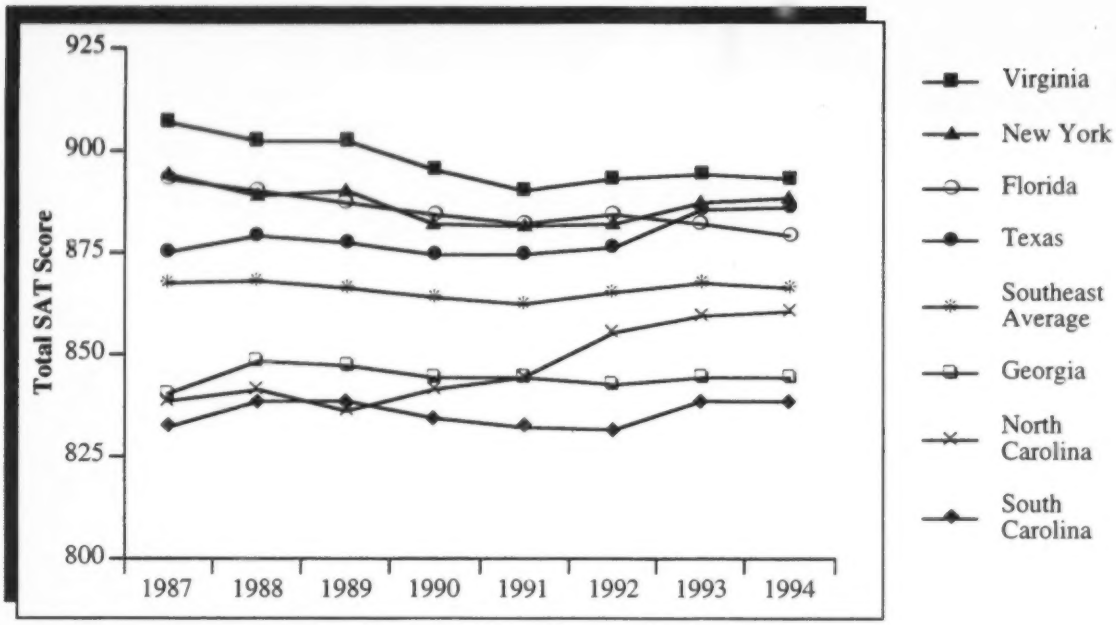
Comparing the Performance of

North Carolina and Six Selected States

1994 and Historically

This section presents the 1994 performance of certain categories of students in North Carolina compared to the performance of the same categories of students in selected other states. Four of the selected states, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia, were chosen because of their proximity to North Carolina. The other two states, New York and Texas, were chosen because their general population characteristics are similar to North Carolina's.

Figure 12. Average Total SAT Scores for North Carolina and Selected States: 1987-1994



Observations:

- Virginia, Florida, New York and Texas consistently outscore North Carolina by a wide margin.
- In 1989, North Carolina's average SAT score fell below South Carolina and Georgia; since that time North Carolina has regained the loss and moved well above South Carolina and Georgia.
- North Carolina's performance has always been somewhat below the Southeast average; however, since 1989 the difference has dramatically decreased.

Data Source: Table 11.

Table 14. Demographic Characteristics and 1994 SAT Scores for Categories of Students

	United States	North Carolina	Florida	Georgia	New York	South Carolina	Texas	Virginia
State and Local Per Capita Expenditures for Public Schools[1]	$812	$743	$775	$787	$1,097	$753	$821	$838
Pupils per Teacher[2]	17.2	17.1	17.0	18.3	14.7	17.0	16.7	15.9
Percent of Children in Poverty[3]		16.9	18.3	19.8	18.8	20.8	24.0	13.0
Percent Minority of those Persons age 5-17[4]	25	31	26	36	32	39	30	27
Percent of Adults with Four years of High School[5]	N/A	71.4	79.7	73.9	78.2	70.2	76.6	76.6
Percent of 19-20 year olds with High School Credentials[6]	N/A	85	79	80	86	84	80	86
Percent of Students Admitted to any 4-year College[7]	35	37	25	39	38	34	31	39
Percent of High School Students Taking Key Math Courses[8]								
Algebra I	N/A	67	78	N/A	69	69	82	81
Algebra II	N/A	51	42	N/A	46	55	54	55
Calculus	N/A	8	9	N/A	12	7	5	11
SAT Participation Rate[9]	42	60	49	65	76	60	48	65
Average Total SAT Score[9]	902	860	879	844	888	838	886	893
Average Mathematics SAT Score[9]	479	455	466	446	472	443	474	469
Average Verbal SAT Score[9]	423	405	413	398	416	395	412	424

1 "Per Capita Amounts of Selected Financial Items for State and Local Goverments by State: 1989-90 ," *Goverment Finances in 1990-91*, p.99

2 *The World Almanac Book of Facts 1992*, New York: An Imprint of Pharos Books.

3 U.S. Bureau of the Census. Poverty Division. *Poverty Statistics for Related Children*. 1990 Census of Population.

4 "Income and Poverty Status in 1989 (Table 3)", 1990 Census of Population and Housing, STF3.

5 U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, *Educational Attainment of the U.S.: March 1991 and 1990*. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1992.

6 National Education Goals Panel, *National Education Goals Report 1992: Building a Nation of Learners*. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1992.

7 *Digest of Education Statistics 1991*. (calculated based on data from tables 96 and 193).

8 Council of Chief State School Officers. *State Policies on Science and Mathematics Education 1992*. Washington, D.C., 1992.

9 The College Board, *1994 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*.

Table 15. 1994 Total SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States

	United States average	%	North Carolina average	%	Florida average	%	Georgia average	%	New York average	%	South Carolina average	%	Texas average	%	Virginia average	%
All Students	902	100	860	100	879	100	844	100	888	100	838	100	886	100	893	100
Sex																
Male	926	47	879	45	896	46	862	45	912	47	861	45	909	47	913	46
Female	881	53	844	55	864	54	827	55	867	53	821	55	866	53	877	54
Ethnicity																
American Indian	837	1	755	2	838	1	790	1	833	1	803	1	862	1	845	1
Asian American	951	9	921	3	918	5	899	4	964	7	924	2	958	6	934	7
Black	740	11	723	21	729	13	711	25	748	12	709	28	733	11	734	16
White	938	69	905	73	926	64	897	69	933	68	895	68	937	61	933	72
Other	825	10	865	1	839	18	847	2	801	12	871	1	811	21	885	2
Parent Education Level																
No Diploma	743	5	730	3	737	4	706	4	751	7	723	4	751	7	733	3
High School Diploma	838	36	806	43	835	36	791	44	837	39	791	44	832	37	816	35
Associate Degree	864	8	837	10	856	10	815	7	874	10	826	11	851	7	836	8
Bachelor's Degree	946	27	906	26	917	28	902	26	942	23	889	23	934	28	932	28
Graduate Degree	1013	24	978	18	964	23	955	19	1021	22	949	18	988	21	1009	27
Family Income																
Less than $10,000	766	6	737	5	758	5	696	6	748	8	712	7	752	7	734	4
$10,000-$20,000	812	11	780	12	807	13	756	12	810	12	764	14	801	12	786	9
$20,000-$30,000	856	13	822	16	856	16	807	15	849	14	812	15	848	15	834	12
$30,000-$40,000	885	16	851	18	876	17	833	16	880	15	839	18	876	16	862	16
$40,000-$50,000	911	13	875	13	904	12	860	12	909	12	858	13	900	12	890	12
$50,000-$60,000	929	11	896	11	911	10	881	11	928	10	882	10	917	10	913	11
$60,000-$70,000	948	8	910	8	928	7	901	9	946	7	917	8	934	8	944	9
$70,000 or more	1000	23	964	17	963	20	948	19	1013	21	946	15	981	21	996	26
Total Credits in Six Subjects																
20 or more	996	41	952	33	965	41	955	26	980	56	932	25	1001	25	981	47
19 or 19.5	932	14	913	15	902	16	907	12	862	11	902	13	946	14	919	15
18 or 18.5	891	13	865	14	860	14	874	14	823	9	870	16	915	17	862	12
17 or 17.5	848	10	822	12	819	10	837	13	797	7	828	14	869	15	807	8
16 or 16.5	813	7	783	8	798	7	788	11	779	6	790	11	819	10	786	6
15 or 15.5	795	6	781	6	794	5	782	8	742	4	758	8	794	7	764	4
Fewer than 15	750	9	742	11	759	7	723	16	704	6	708	13	748	12	721	8
High School GPA																
A+ (97-100)	1165	5	1119	6	1141	7	1142	4	1237	3	1128	4	1126	7	1169	4
A (93-96)	1065	13	1008	15	1027	12	1021	12	1120	11	1015	10	1013	17	1074	11
A- (90-92)	1002	14	937	14	972	12	951	13	1029	13	945	11	942	18	1016	12
B (80-89)	863	51	816	48	845	50	807	53	858	55	823	52	820	50	883	47
C (70-79)	746	16	717	16	732	18	709	17	733	18	720	23	731	8	752	24
D or below	708	0	670	0	682	0	672	0	687	1	668	1	696	0	700	1
High School Rank																
Top Tenth	1098	22	1055	21	1084	20	1054	18	1120	17	1027	20	1066	22	1094	18
Second Tenth	961	22	915	22	938	22	907	21	976	21	892	21	927	23	967	21
Second Fifth	877	27	834	28	852	28	833	27	883	27	822	27	856	28	876	28
Third Fifth	788	24	751	25	776	26	749	29	792	28	741	27	776	22	782	26
Fourth Fifth	731	4	689	4	713	4	696	5	729	5	690	5	727	4	728	5
Bottom Fifth	695	1	653	1	685	1	654	1	694	1	640	1	689	1	690	1

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Table 16. 1994 Verbal SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States

	United States average	%	North Carolina average	%	Florida average	%	Georgia average	%	New York average	%	South Carolina average	%	Texas average	%	Virginia average	%
All Students	**423**	**100**	**405**	**100**	**413**	**100**	**398**	**100**	**416**	**100**	**395**	**100**	**412**	**100**	**424**	**100**
Sex																
Male	**425**	**47**	**406**	**45**	**412**	**46**	**399**	**45**	**418**	**47**	**398**	**45**	**415**	**47**	**424**	**46**
Female	421	53	405	55	414	54	396	55	415	53	393	55	410	53	425	54
Ethnicity																
American Indian	**396**	**1**	**352**	**2**	**399**	**1**	**375**	**1**	**392**	**1**	**379**	**1**	**407**	**1**	**404**	**1**
Asian American	416	9	406	3	409	5	388	4	419	7	415	2	419	6	411	7
Black	**352**	**11**	**342**	**21**	**343**	**13**	**335**	**25**	**359**	**12**	**332**	**28**	**342**	**11**	**352**	**16**
White	443	69	427	73	437	64	425	69	439	68	423	68	439	61	445	72
Other	**386**	**10**	**412**	**1**	**394**	**18**	**402**	**2**	**380**	**12**	**414**	**1**	**376**	**21**	**421**	**2**
Parent Education Level																
No Diploma	**336**	**5**	**339**	**3**	**337**	**4**	**325**	**4**	**342**	**7**	**334**	**4**	**338**	**7**	**339**	**3**
High School Diploma	393	36	379	43	392	36	373	44	393	39	372	44	386	37	387	35
Associate Degree	**406**	**8**	**395**	**10**	**402**	**10**	**385**	**7**	**410**	**10**	**388**	**11**	**397**	**7**	**397**	**8**
Bachelor's Degree	443	27	427	26	432	28	425	26	441	23	420	23	436	28	443	28
Graduate Degree	**478**	**24**	**464**	**18**	**456**	**23**	**453**	**19**	**483**	**22**	**450**	**18**	**464**	**21**	**480**	**27**
Family Income																
Less than $10,000	**350**	**6**	**347**	**5**	**351**	**5**	**323**	**6**	**343**	**8**	**333**	**7**	**343**	**7**	**343**	**4**
$10,000-$20,000	377	11	368	12	377	13	355	12	375	12	359	14	368	12	371	9
$20,000-$30,000	**402**	**13**	**388**	**16**	**403**	**16**	**381**	**15**	**399**	**14**	**384**	**15**	**394**	**15**	**396**	**12**
$30,000-$40,000	416	16	402	18	413	17	393	16	414	15	396	18	408	16	410	16
$40,000-$50,000	**429**	**13**	**412**	**13**	**426**	**12**	**407**	**12**	**428**	**12**	**404**	**13**	**420**	**12**	**424**	**12**
$50,000-$60,000	437	11	422	11	428	10	416	11	437	10	414	10	428	10	433	11
$60,000-$70,000	**446**	**8**	**428**	**8**	**437**	**7**	**425**	**9**	**446**	**7**	**432**	**8**	**436**	**8**	**448**	**9**
$70,000 or more	469	23	454	17	454	20	447	19	477	21	446	15	459	21	473	26
Total Credits in Six Subjects																
20 or more	**470**	**41**	**452**	**33**	**457**	**41**	**454**	**26**	**460**	**56**	**444**	**25**	**471**	**25**	**468**	**47**
19 or 19.5	437	14	431	15	423	16	429	12	406	11	425	13	442	14	434	15
18 or 18.5	**416**	**13**	**406**	**14**	**402**	**14**	**411**	**14**	**388**	**9**	**408**	**16**	**423**	**17**	**406**	**12**
17 or 17.5	396	10	384	12	384	10	392	13	375	7	387	14	401	15	383	8
16 or 16.5	**380**	**7**	**367**	**8**	**373**	**7**	**370**	**11**	**364**	**6**	**372**	**11**	**381**	**10**	**374**	**6**
15 or 15.5	371	6	367	6	370	5	368	8	346	4	357	8	369	7	360	4
Fewer than 15	**347**	**9**	**346**	**11**	**352**	**7**	**338**	**16**	**324**	**6**	**331**	**13**	**344**	**12**	**340**	**8**
High School GPA																
A+ (97-100)	**545**	**5**	**526**	**6**	**534**	**7**	**539**	**4**	**586**	**3**	**531**	**4**	**522**	**7**	**553**	**4**
A (93-96)	497	13	473	15	481	12	478	12	526	11	476	10	470	17	508	11
A- (90-92)	**467**	**14**	**439**	**14**	**455**	**12**	**446**	**13**	**480**	**13**	**444**	**11**	**437**	**18**	**479**	**12**
B (80-89)	405	51	385	48	398	50	381	53	402	55	388	52	382	50	419	47
C (70-79)	**353**	**16**	**341**	**16**	**346**	**18**	**336**	**17**	**346**	**18**	**341**	**23**	**343**	**8**	**360**	**24**
D or below	336	0	323	0	327	0	318	0	330	1	316	1	333	0	340	1
High School Rank																
Top Tenth	**512**	**22**	**495**	**21**	**507**	**20**	**495**	**18**	**524**	**17**	**482**	**20**	**494**	**22**	**518**	**18**
Second Tenth	447	22	429	22	439	22	425	21	454	21	419	21	429	23	456	21
Second Fifth	**410**	**27**	**392**	**28**	**400**	**28**	**392**	**27**	**413**	**27**	**386**	**27**	**398**	**28**	**414**	**28**
Third Fifth	373	24	357	25	368	26	355	29	373	28	351	27	363	22	374	26
Fourth Fifth	**349**	**4**	**330**	**4**	**341**	**4**	**332**	**5**	**348**	**5**	**329**	**5**	**342**	**4**	**351**	**5**
Bottom Fifth	332	1	313	1	326	1	309	1	333	1	302	1	325	1	336	1

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Table 17. 1994 Mathematics SAT Scores for the U.S., N.C. and Other Selected States

	United States average	%	North Carolina average	%	Florida average	%	Georgia average	%	New York average	%	South Carolina average	%	Texas average	%	Virginia average	%
All Students	479	100	455	100	466	100	446	100	472	100	443	100	474	100	469	100
Sex																
Male	501	47	473	45	484	46	463	45	494	47	463	45	494	47	489	46
Female	460	53	439	55	450	54	431	55	452	53	428	55	456	53	452	54
Ethnicity																
American Indian	441	1	403	2	439	1	415	1	441	1	424	1	455	1	441	1
Asian American	535	9	515	3	509	5	511	4	545	7	509	2	539	6	523	7
Black	388	11	381	21	386	13	376	25	389	12	377	28	391	11	382	16
White	495	69	478	73	489	64	472	69	494	68	472	68	498	61	488	72
Other	439	10	453	1	445	18	445	2	421	12	457	1	435	21	464	4
Parent Education Level																
No Diploma	407	5	391	3	400	4	381	4	409	7	389	4	413	7	394	3
High School Diploma	445	36	427	43	443	36	418	44	444	39	419	44	446	37	429	35
Associate Degree	458	8	442	10	454	10	430	7	464	10	438	11	454	7	439	8
Bachelor's Degree	503	27	479	26	485	28	477	26	501	23	469	23	498	28	489	28
Graduate Degree	535	24	514	18	508	23	502	19	538	22	499	18	524	21	529	27
Family Income																
Less than $10,000	416	6	390	5	407	5	373	6	405	8	379	7	409	7	391	4
$10,000-$20,000	435	11	412	12	430	13	401	12	435	12	405	14	433	12	415	9
$20,000-$30,000	454	13	434	16	453	16	426	15	450	14	428	15	454	15	438	12
$30,000-$40,000	469	16	449	18	463	17	440	16	466	15	443	18	468	16	452	16
$40,000-$50,000	482	13	463	13	478	12	453	12	481	12	454	13	480	12	466	12
$50,000-$60,000	492	11	474	11	483	10	465	11	491	10	468	10	489	10	480	11
$60,000-$70,000	502	8	482	8	491	7	476	9	500	7	485	8	498	8	496	9
$70,000 or more	531	23	510	17	509	20	501	19	536	21	500	15	522	21	523	26
Total Credits in Six Subjects																
20 or more	526	41	500	33	508	41	501	26	520	56	488	25	530	25	513	47
19 or 19.5	495	14	482	15	479	16	478	12	456	11	477	13	504	14	485	15
18 or 18.5	475	13	459	14	458	14	463	14	435	9	462	16	492	17	456	12
17 or 17.5	452	10	438	12	435	10	445	13	422	7	441	14	468	15	424	8
16 or 16.5	433	7	416	8	425	7	418	11	415	6	418	11	438	10	412	6
15 or 15.5	424	6	414	6	424	5	414	8	396	4	401	8	425	7	404	4
Fewer than 15	403	9	396	11	407	7	385	16	380	6	377	13	404	12	381	8
High School GPA																
A+ (97-100)	620	5	593	6	607	7	603	4	651	3	597	4	604	7	616	4
A (93-96)	568	13	535	15	546	12	543	12	594	11	539	10	543	17	566	11
A- (90-92)	535	14	498	14	517	12	505	13	549	13	501	11	505	18	537	12
B (80-89)	458	51	431	48	447	50	426	53	456	55	435	52	438	50	464	47
C (70-79)	393	16	376	16	386	18	373	17	387	18	379	23	388	8	392	24
D or below	372	0	347	0	355	0	354	0	357	1	352	1	363	0	360	1
High School Rank																
Top Tenth	586	22	560	21	577	20	559	18	596	17	545	20	572	22	576	18
Second Tenth	514	22	486	22	499	22	482	21	522	21	473	21	498	23	511	21
Second Fifth	467	27	442	28	452	28	441	27	470	27	436	27	458	28	462	28
Third Fifth	415	24	394	25	408	26	394	29	419	28	390	27	413	22	408	26
Fourth Fifth	382	4	359	4	372	4	364	5	381	5	361	5	385	4	377	5
Bottom Fifth	363	1	340	1	359	1	345	1	361	1	338	1	364	1	354	1

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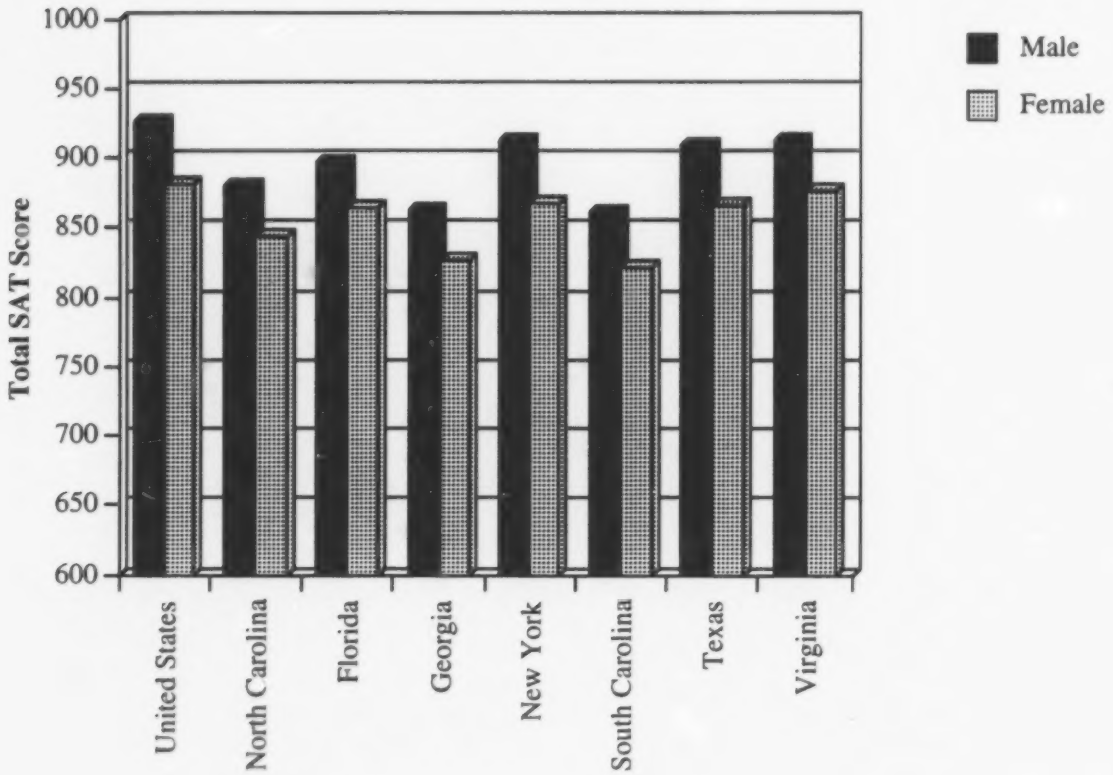
Figure 13. 1994 Total SAT Scores for Males and Females for Selected States and the Nation

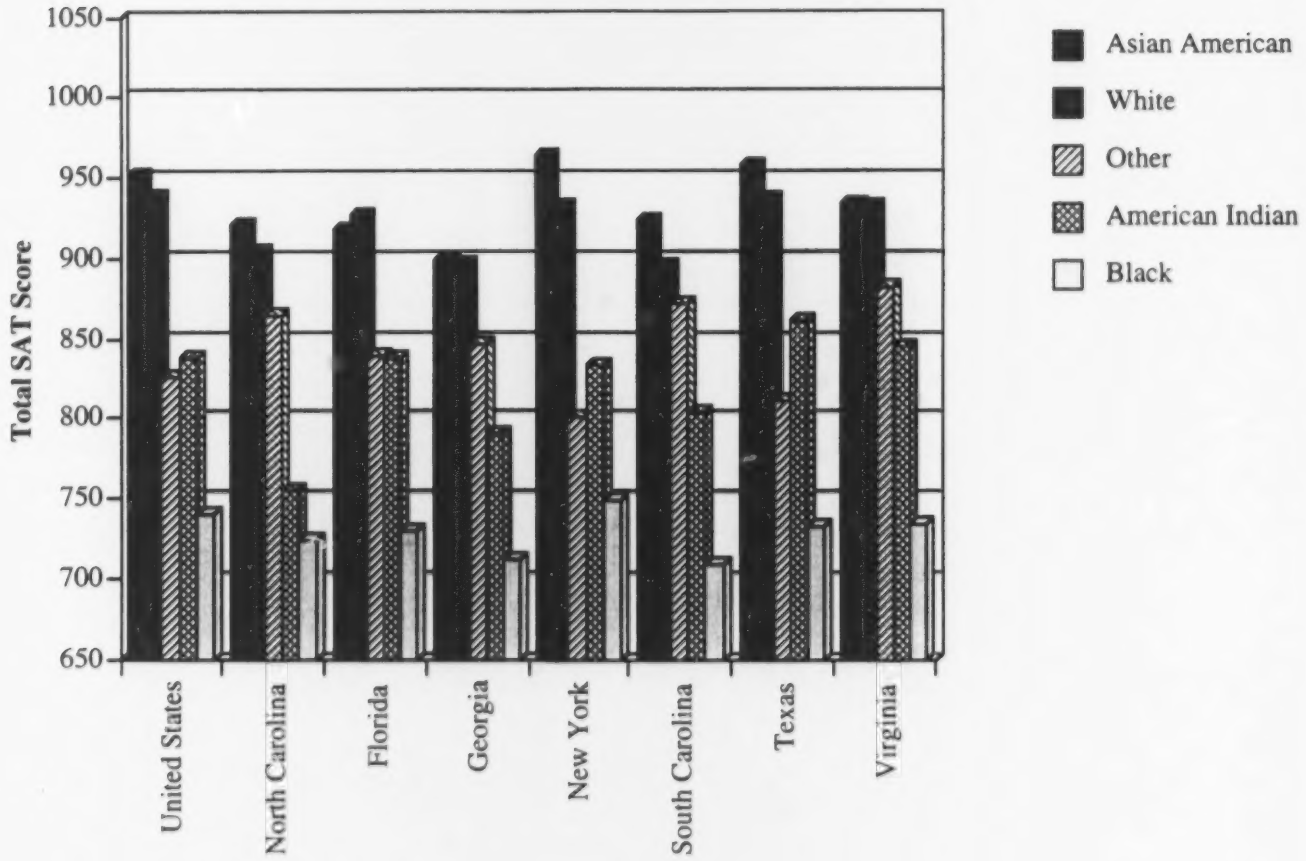


Observations:

- Males score higher than females in all selected states.
- The difference between male and female scores narrowed this year in each of the selected states. The 35 point difference in North Carolina was the second smallest difference among the selected states. Nationally, males scored an average of 45 points higher than females.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 14. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Race/Ethnicity for Selected States and the Nation

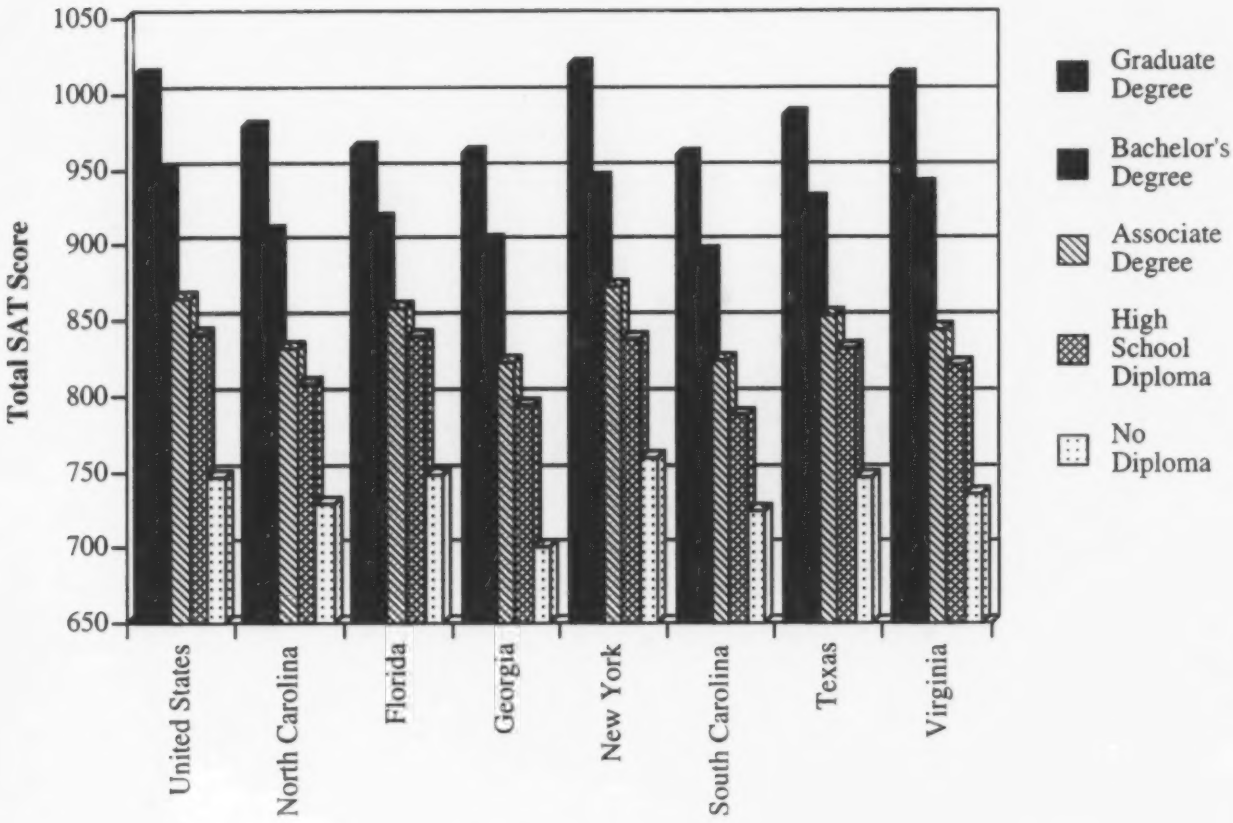


Observations:

- In all of the selected states, except Florida, Asian American students outscore all other race/ethnic group followed by White students.
- American Indian students in North Carolina score lower than their national counterparts and lower than American Indian students in the SAT states shown.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 15. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Parent Education Levels for Selected States and the Nation

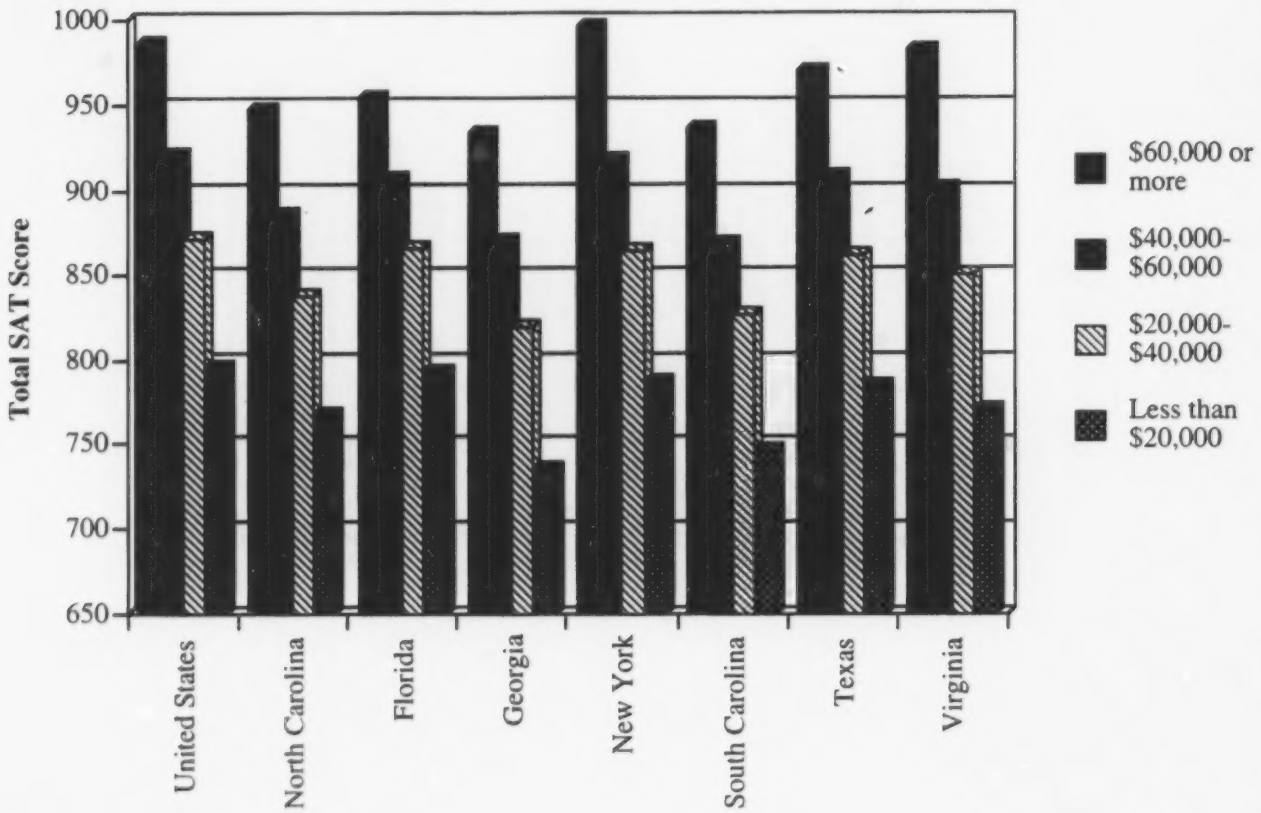


Observations:

- In the nation and each of the selected states, as the level of parent education increases, scores increase.
- At every parent education level, North Carolina students scored lower than their counterparts nationally. Generally, North Carolina students in these categories scored lower than their counterparts in the selected states as well, with the exception of Georgia and South Carolina.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 16. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Family Income Level for Selected States and the Nation

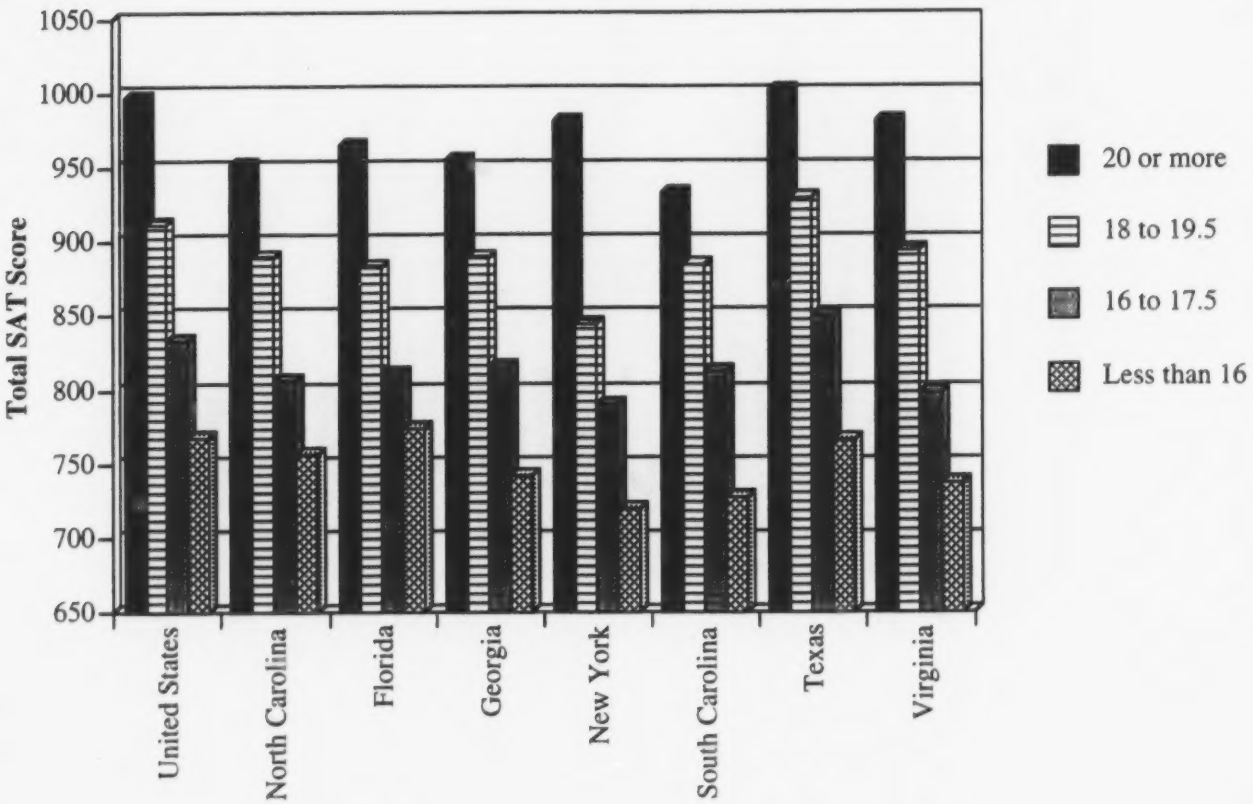


Observations:

- Nationally and in the selected states, students with higher family income levels have higher scores.
- At each income level North Carolina students do not score as well as their national counterparts.
- North Carolina students in each family income level are outscored nationally and in the selected states with the exception of Georgia and South Carolina.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 17. 1994 Total SAT Scores by Total Years of Study in Six Academic Subjects for Selected States and the Nation



Observations:

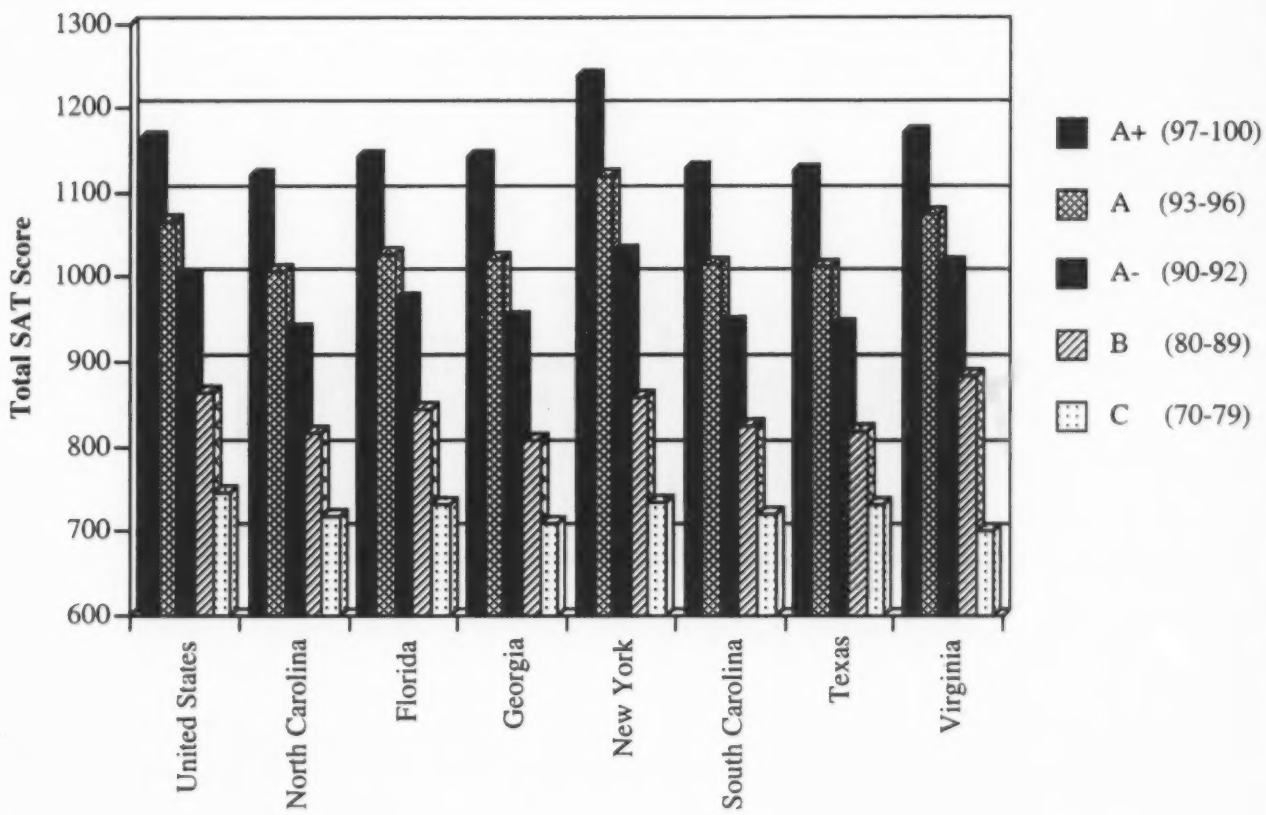
- As can be seen in Table 15, compared to SAT takers nationally, North Carolina students were less likely to have taken 20 or more academic courses (41 percent nationally compared to 33 percent in North Carolina). North Carolina test-takers do not compare favorably to students in New York (56 percent) or Virginia (49 percent).

- Even so, North Carolina students who do take 20 or more academic courses are outscored by their counterparts nationally and in the selected states, with the exception of South Carolina.

- North Carolina students are also outscored nationally and in about half of the selected states for students with fewer than 20 academic courses.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 18. 1994 Total SAT Scores by High School Grade Point Average for Selected States and the Nation



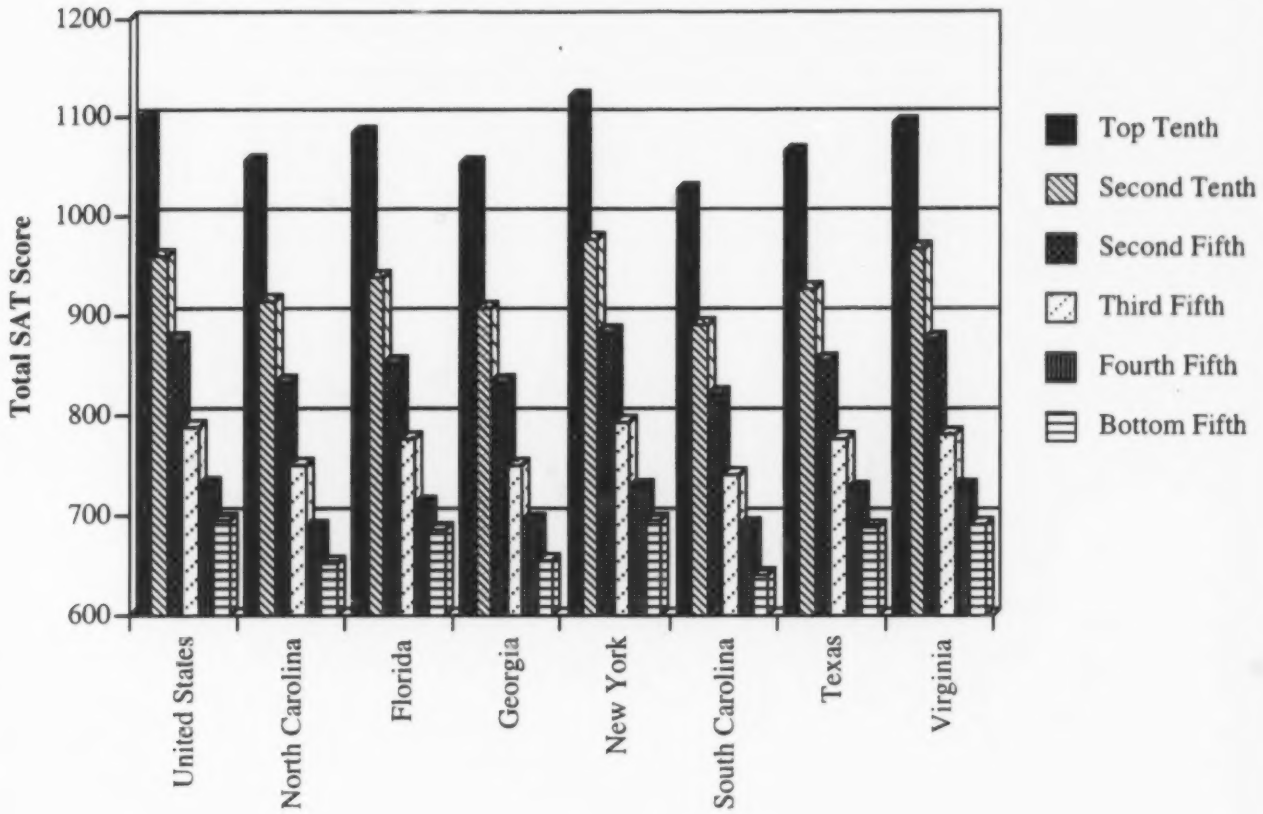
Observations:

- North Carolina test takers with self-reported high school grades of 'A+', 'A' and 'A-' scored lower than students nationally and in each of the states selected for comparison. This is true for North Carolina students with grades of 'B' and 'C' as well.

- Note from Table 15 that North Carolina test-takers are awarded grades in the 'A' range more often than students nationally (35 percent compared to 32 percent nationally), and more often than each of the selected states with the exception of Texas, which awards 42 percent 'A's.

Data Source: Table 15.

Figure 19. 1994 Total SAT Scores by High School Rank for Selected States and the Nation



Observations:

- North Carolina students taking the SAT reported their relative high school ranks in the same proportions as students nationally, as seen in Table 15. However, North Carolina students in the top tenth of their class scored 43 points lower than their counterparts nationally, and below their counterparts in the comparison states except those in Georgia and South Carolina. Texan students in the top tenth of their class scored eleven points above North Carolina, while the other three scored well above North Carolina (New York students' average score is 65 points higher than North Carolina's).

Data Source: Table 15.

Comparing the Performance of

Individual School Systems

For the 119 Public Schools Systems and Two Special Public Schools

This section gives frequency distributions of system average scores, highlights successful school systems, and shows individual system results including number and percent tested, math and verbal scores. Caution must be exercised in interpreting scores for local systems, which vary considerably in percentage and types of students taking the SAT. For example, The College Board states, "Other factors variously related to performance on the SAT include academic courses studied in high school, family background, and education of parents. These factors and others of a less tangible nature could very well have a significant influence on average scores." (The College Board, Press Release, *1994*.) The College Board strongly discourages the use of SAT scores to compare school systems or states. However, with some stability in participation rates, the review of scores over a number of years can reveal changes in the performance of specified groups of students who take the SAT.

Figure 20. Counties with Total SAT Scores At or Above the State and National Averages (City Systems and Special Schools Listed Below)

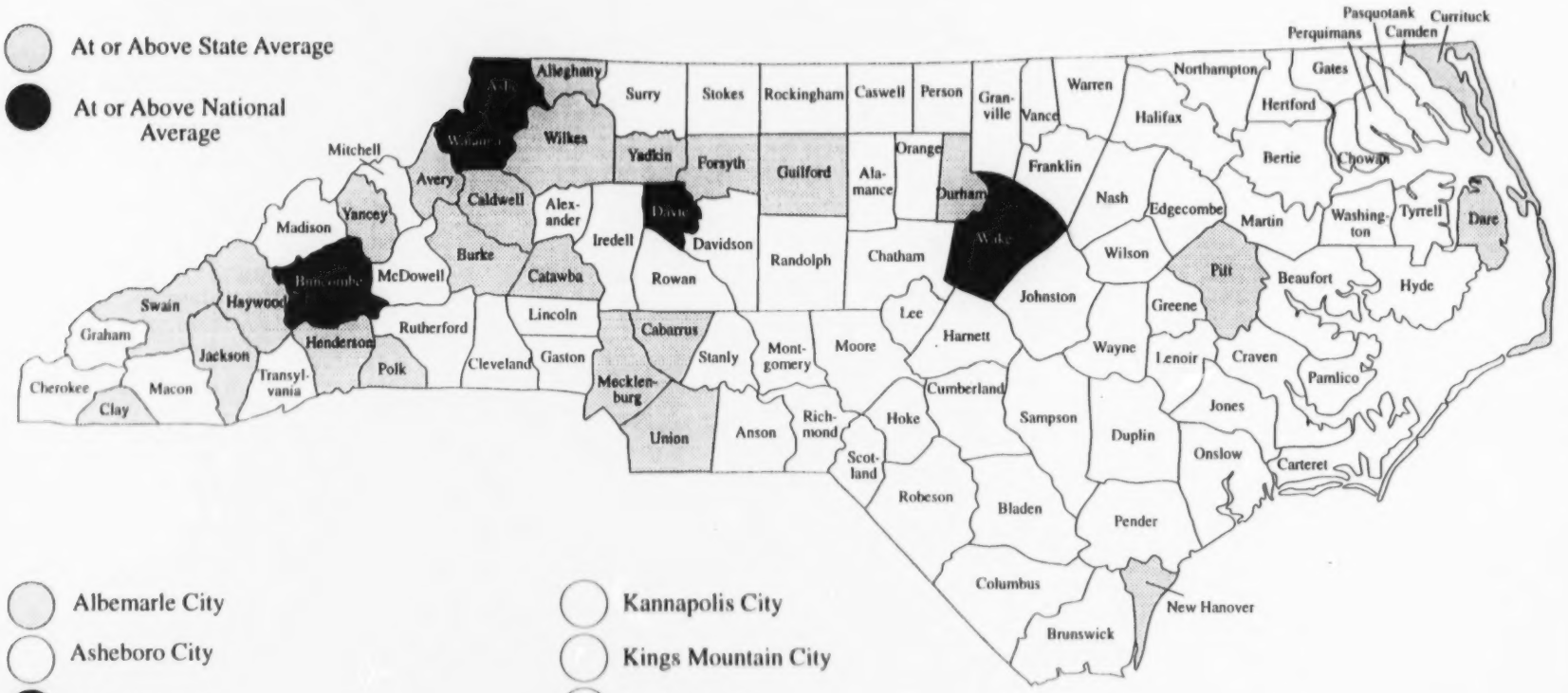


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Figure 21. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 School System Average SAT Mathematics Scores

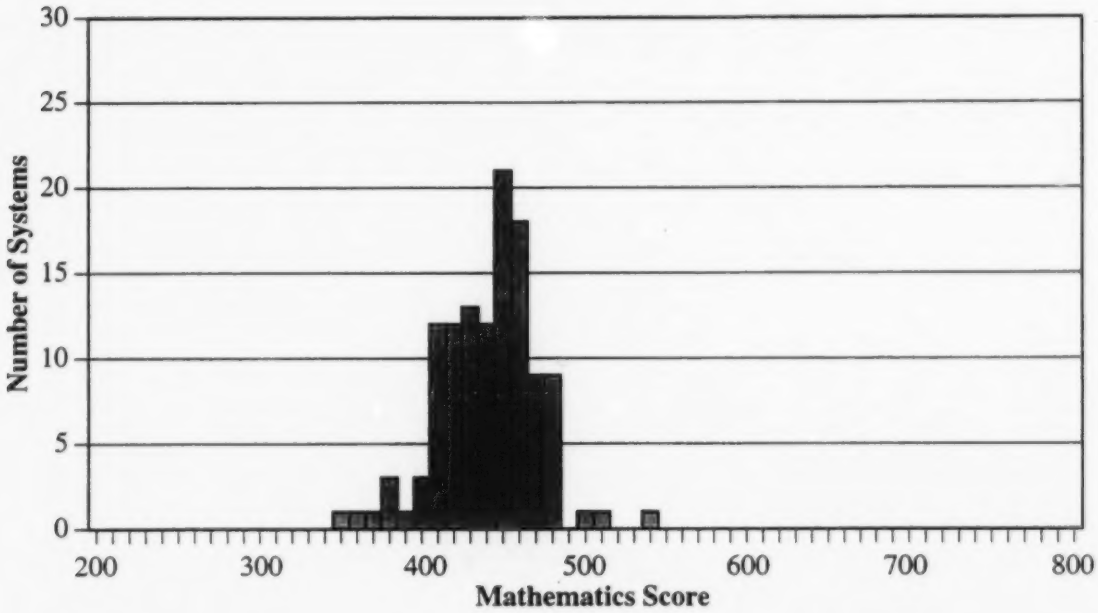
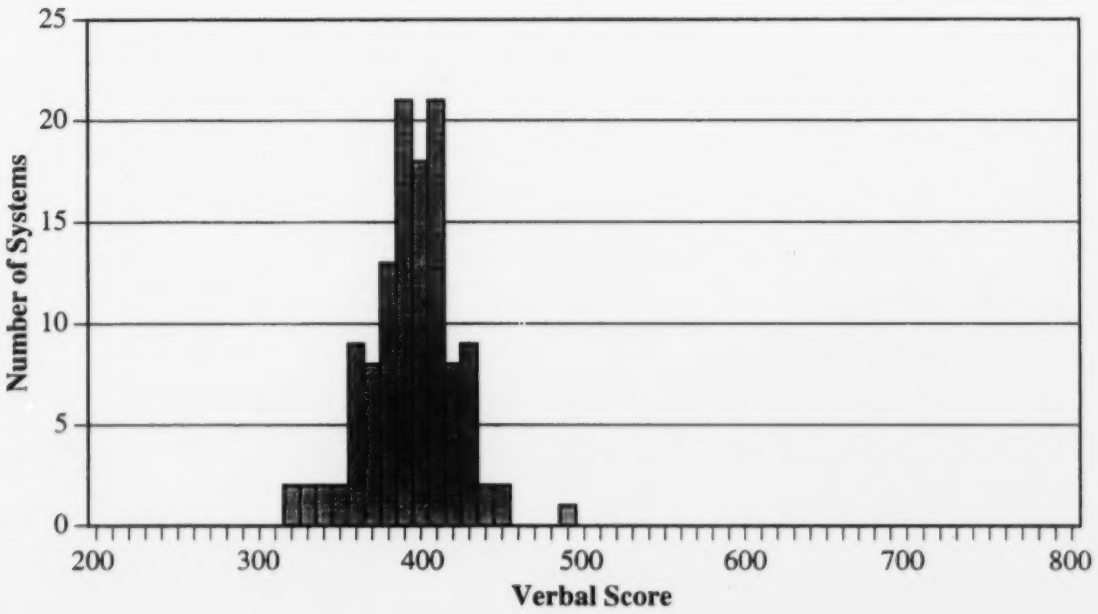


Figure 22. Distribution of North Carolina 1994 School System Average SAT Verbal Scores



Note: Data are from the 119 Public School Systems and 2 special schools.

Table 18. Outstanding School Systems

School Systems with the Highest 1994 SAT Scores

Verbal	Mathematics	Total
1 Chapel Hill City	1 Chapel Hill City	1 Chapel Hill City
2 Elkin City	2 Elkin City	2 Elkin City
3 Asheville City	3 Wake County	3 Asheville City
4 Hickory City	4 Mooresville City	4 Wake County
5 Davie County	5 Watauga County	5 Hickory City
6 Buncombe County	6 Dare County	6 Davie County
7 Wake County	7 Avery County	7 Mooresville City
8 Haywood County	8 Asheville City	8 Buncombe County
9 Watauga County	9 Ashe County	9 Watauga County
10 Albemarle City	10 Buncombe County	10 Ashe County

School Systems with the Highest SAT Score Gains from 1993 to 1994

Verbal	Mathematics	Total
1 Greene County	1 Alleghany County	1 Greene County
2 Albemarle City	2 Elkin City	2 Elkin City
3 Elkin City	3 Clay County	3 Albemarle City
4 Jackson County	4 Ashe County	4 Alleghany County
5 Newton-Conover City	5 Martin County	5 Ashe County
6 Haywood County	5 Avery County	6 Martin County
6 Asheville City	7 Greene County	7 Asheville City
8 Franklin County	8 Swain County	8 Franklin County
8 Mount Airy City	9 Albemarle City	9 Washington County
8 Martin County	10 McDowell County	9 Jones County
8 Jones County		
8 Ashe County		

School Systems with the Highest 1994 SAT Participation Rates

1 Chapel Hill City
2 Asheville City
3 Transylvania County
4 Dare County
5 Burlington City
6 Wake County
7 Durham County
8 Hickory City
9 Watauga County
10 Mt. Airy City

Table 18. (continued)

School Systems with 4 or More Consecutive Years of Improvement

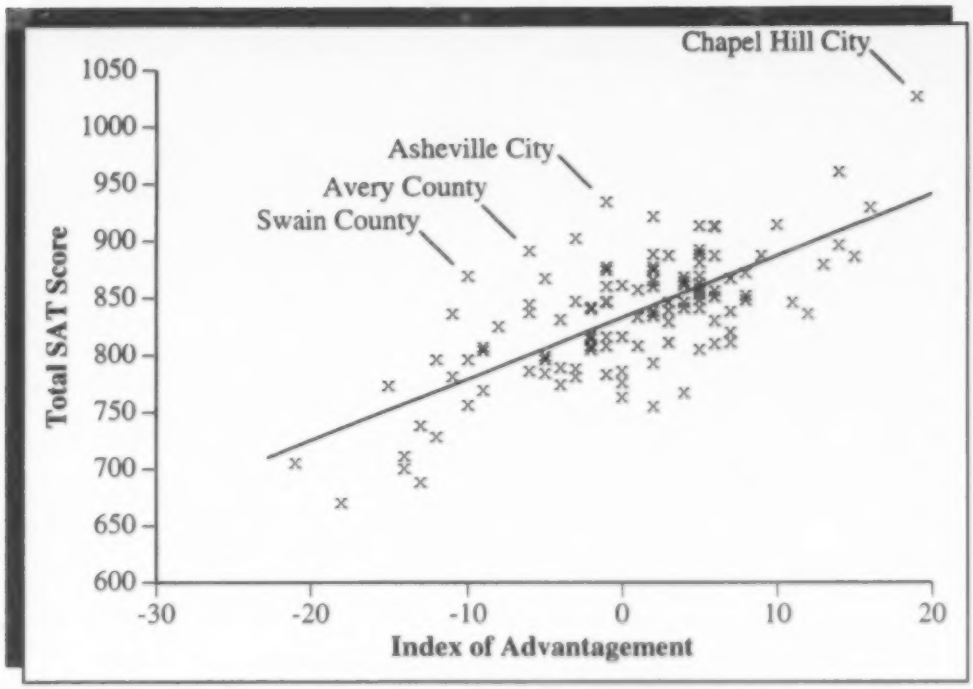
Verbal
- Swain County
- Mooresville City
- Davidson County

Mathematics
- Alamance County (5 yrs)
- Cabarrus County (5 yrs)
- Edgecombe County (5 yrs)
- Rockingham County
- Yadkin County
- Washington County

Total
- Mooresville City
- Pitt County
- Randolph County
- Yadkin County

Participation
- Lee County (5 yrs)
- Perquimans County (5 yrs)
- Columbus County
- Harnett County
- Rutherford County
- Stanly County

Figure 23. A Scatterplot of Index of Advantagement by Total SAT Score for 119 School Systems



Observations:

- The more advantaged systems had, on average, higher SAT scores.
- Based only on Index of Advantagement, four systems, Chapel Hill City, Asheville City, Avery County and Swain County scored much higher than expected.

Note: Index of Advantagement is a measurement used in the 1992 North Carolina Report Card. The higher the index, the more advantaged the school system.

Data Source: not in text

Table 19: 1994 SAT Verbal, Mathematics, and Total Scores for School Systems and Special Schools

LEA	TAC	School System	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Math Score	Verbal Score	Total Score
10	6	Alamance County	318	53.5	448	400	848
11	6	Burlington City	259	75.5	478	409	887
20	2	Alexander County	120	48.2	436	402	838
30	2	Alleghany County	50	53.8	462	415	877
40	3	Anson County	116	46.8	407	349	756
50	2	Ashe County	117	54.7	481	421	902
60	2	Avery County	48	38.1	484	407	891
70	4	Beaufort County	226	44.1	432	389	821
80	4	Bertie County	105	48.6	373	338	711
90	5	Bladen County	124	42.9	408	366	774
100	5	Brunswick County	176	39.4	408	368	776
110	1	Buncombe County	706	56.4	480	433	913
111	1	Asheville City	154	88.0	483	451	934
120	2	Burke County	288	45.9	458	407	865
130	3	Cabarrus County	476	62.1	474	405	879
132	3	Kannapolis City	103	52.3	409	374	783
140	2	Caldwell County	223	45.1	466	408	874
150	4	Camden County	32	64.0	438	373	811
160	5	Carteret County	253	62.0	455	403	858
170	6	Caswell County	79	40.9	414	367	781
180	2	Catawba County	399	53.2	466	406	872
181	2	Hickory City	166	73.5	479	442	921
182	2	Newton-Conover City	74	51.4	462	426	888
190	6	Chatham County	159	54.8	439	391	830
200	1	Cherokee County	129	54.7	454	393	847
210	4	Chowan County	84	60.9	443	399	842
220	1	Clay County	24	40.7	473	391	864
230	3	Cleveland County	191	42.2	444	394	838
231	3	Kings Mountain District	89	44.3	455	396	851
232	3	Shelby City	109	66.9	427	389	816
240	5	Columbus County	184	41.0	410	359	769
241	5	Whiteville City	82	58.6	419	398	817
250	5	Craven County	363	50.8	448	409	857
260	5	Cumberland County	1514	58.5	430	386	816
270	4	Currituck County	72	52.6	463	414	877
280	4	Dare County	131	76.2	484	412	896
290	2	Davidson County	454	50.1	447	405	852
291	2	Lexington City	72	51.4	439	405	844
292	2	Thomasville City	58	54.2	420	376	796
300	2	Davie County	156	53.8	476	438	914
310	5	Duplin County	202	50.6	423	376	799
320	6	Durham County	931	74.7	467	419	886
330	4	Edgecombe County	170	36.7	430	381	811

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Table 19. (Continued)

LEA	TAC	School System	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Math Score	Verbal Score	Total Score
340	2	Forsyth County	1318	63.1	456	411	867
350	6	Franklin County	134	42.1	448	411	859
360	3	Gaston County	782	53.9	445	394	839
370	4	Gates County	41	47.1	400	363	763
380	1	Graham County	33	45.8	422	383	805
390	6	Granville County	158	47.4	421	387	808
400	5	Greene County	48	28.1	437	388	825
410	6	Guilford County	2026	66.5	461	409	870
420	4	Halifax County	97	33.4	375	330	705
421	4	Roanoke Rapids City	88	52.4	469	418	887
422	4	Weldon City	36	52.9	346	324	670
430	6	Harnett County	271	46.2	444	402	846
440	1	Haywood County	209	47.4	462	430	892
450	1	Henderson County	349	57.6	473	425	898
460	4	Hertford County	153	67.1	359	329	688
470	3	Hoke County	105	43.8	413	360	773
480	4	Hyde County	24	48.0	409	358	767
490	2	Iredell County	324	50.8	448	393	841
491	2	Mooresville City	124	64.6	486	427	913
500	1	Jackson County	122	59.2	459	422	881
510	6	Johnston County	379	45.7	454	392	846
520	5	Jones County	34	38.2	420	384	804
530	6	Lee County	221	61.0	427	384	811
540	5	Lenoir County	274	52.2	431	383	814
550	3	Lincoln County	216	47.7	444	390	834
560	1	Macon County	104	56.5	458	399	857
570	1	Madison County	71	44.7	434	402	836
580	4	Martin County	148	51.4	408	380	788
590	1	McDowell County	136	44.6	450	397	847
600	3	Mecklenburg County	2541	63.7	472	415	887
610	1	Mitchell County	70	50.0	414	394	808
620	3	Montgomery County	93	43.9	434	362	796
630	3	Moore County	240	43.1	446	400	846
640	6	Nash County	472	52.2	446	387	833
		NC School of Science and Math	252		573	650	1223
		NC School of the Arts	92		483	510	993
650	5	New Hanover County	705	65.3	453	410	863
660	4	Northampton County	82	41.6	376	324	700
670	5	Onslow County	438	48.2	451	402	853
680	6	Orange County	146	52.1	429	391	820
681	6	Chapel Hill City	323	89.5	538	488	1026
690	5	Pamlico County	71	52.6	440	389	829
700	4	Pasquotank County	152	62.0	430	378	808

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Table 19. (Continued)

LEA	TAC	School System	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Math Score	Verbal Score	Total Score
710	5	Pender County	119	44.1	417	369	786
720	4	Perquimans County	53	52.0	412	374	786
730	6	Person County	178	60.1	416	377	793
740	4	Pitt County	502	53.6	462	412	874
750	1	Polk County	51	58.0	450	411	861
760	6	Randolph County	246	38.0	454	406	860
761	6	Asheboro City	120	62.5	434	414	848
770	3	Richmond County	143	34.4	446	385	831
780	5	Robeson County	515	48.4	396	342	738
790	6	Rockingham County	380	48.9	454	397	851
800	3	Rowan County	471	52.2	455	401	856
810	1	Rutherford County	233	43.9	438	402	840
820	5	Sampson County	200	49.9	420	364	784
821	5	Clinton City	84	60.9	392	363	755
830	3	Scotland County	180	54.2	418	363	781
840	3	Stanly County	193	55.8	457	389	846
841	3	Albemarle City	68	60.2	461	427	888
850	2	Stokes County	145	45.0	420	390	810
860	2	Surry County	206	46.8	445	396	841
861	2	Elkin City	30	54.5	506	454	960
862	2	Mount Airy City	67	71.3	448	421	869
870	1	Swain County	48	52.7	453	416	869
880	1	Transylvania County	146	78.1	440	396	836
890	4	Tyrrell County	32	66.7	428	379	807
900	3	Union County	470	54.1	459	412	871
910	6	Vance County	187	50.7	414	382	796
920	6	Wake County	2850	75.3	497	432	929
930	6	Warren County	82	55.4	381	347	728
940	4	Washington County	99	62.3	417	372	789
950	2	Watauga County	188	73.2	484	428	912
960	5	Wayne County	544	52.9	427	378	805
970	2	Wilkes County	203	43.8	451	410	861
980	6	Wilson County	288	51.2	449	388	837
990	2	Yadkin County	141	50.7	460	408	868
995	1	Yancey County	53	35.3	465	402	867

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